Tamil Arasu

Publication of Information & Public Relations Department

February 2014
Rs. 20/-
Vol. : 45 Issue : 8

Tamil Arasu

Publication of Information &
Public Relations Department
Thiruvalluvar Year - 2045
February 2014
Vol: 45 Rs.20/- Issue: 8

My endeavour as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has been to raise the level of training, equipping, leadership and motivation of the complete Police Force, rather than to create an odd island of excellence in a sea of mediocrity. **- Selvi J Jayalalithaa**
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Editor and Publisher
J. Kumaragurubaran, IAS
Director of Information &
Public Relations and Ex-officio
Joint Secretary to Government

Administrative Editor
K. Shanthi
Deputy Director (Publications)

Joint Editor
S. Jayalalitha
Assistant Director

Associate Editors
R. Ilavarasi
A. Maheswari
S. Kamala
Public Relations Officers

Assistant Editors
D. Periyar Socrates
K. Subbaiah
M. Duraisamy
T. Sheik Mohamed

Reporter
M.Manimekalai

Senior Artist
R. Samundeeswari

Journal Assistant
A. Mathan

Layout Artist
R. Balaji

Designed by
G. Murali Krishnan

In this issue....

- Speech delivered by His Excellency, the Governor of Tamil Nadu Dr. K. Rosaiah in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 30.1.2014..2
- Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa's reply on 3.2.2014 to the debate on the motion of thanks to the Governor's speech *(English Translation)*.....................20
- Speech delivered by Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on the Valedictory function of the 4th All India Police Commando Competition held on 27.1.2014 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium, Chennai 44
- Tamil Nadu Government's 65th Republic Day Function Celebration (26.1.2014)................................50
- Chief Minister seeks swift action on latest fishermen arrests..53
- Rs. 853.96 crore water drainage schemes across State 80

Designed & Printed at :
Tamil Arasu Press
Directorate of Stationery &
Printing premises,
110, Anna Salai, Chennai-600 002.
Tel : 28520407/ 28520408
Fax : 28520408
E-mail : tamilarasu@tn.gov.in
: tamilarasujournal@gmail.com
Website : www.tndipr.gov.in

Front Wrapper:

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** handed over the trophy instituted in her name on the valedictory function of the 4th All India Police Commando Competition held on 27.1.2014 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium, Chennai.

'TAMIL NADU MARCHING AHEAD ON INCLUSIVE GROWTH MODEL'

Speech delivered by His Excellency, the Governor of Tamil Nadu Dr. K. Rosaiah in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 30.1.2014

Hon'ble Members of the Legislative Assembly,

Vanakkam.

1. I am immensely honoured to address this august House on the occasion of its inaugural session for the year 2014. On this happy occasion, I convey my hearty New Year greetings to all of you. This is my third consecutive inaugural address to this House and I am grateful to the people of Tamil Nadu for this opportunity. This august House has the sacred duty to fulfill the aspirations of the people, who have reposed their faith in you. Towards this, let us begin this New Year with a solemn resolve to strive for the growth and prosperity of the State and the welfare of the people of Tamil Nadu.

2. This Government will soon complete three successful years in office. This period has witnessed momentous changes and great accomplishments. The dream of inclusive growth has become a reality. This was due to the vision of the Hon'ble Chief Minister **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** to adopt an inclusive growth model, placing the highest emphasis

on equitable development and on greater participation of the common people in the socio-economic development process of the State. Towards this, many well-conceived development schemes targeting specific sectors and regions have been launched. Problems of poverty and unemployment are being comprehensively dealt with. Several infrastructure projects with the potential to trigger long term economic growth have been planned and executed. Above all, the bedrock for growth and development - public order - is being maintained without blemish, instilling confidence in the administration.

3. The people have wholeheartedly appreciated such progressive measures. The resounding victory in the recent by-election for the Yercaud constituency is yet another proof of the people's continuing faith in the astute and dynamic leadership of the Hon'ble Chief Minister. This Government will spare no effort to ensure that this trend continues in the future also.

Relief package for drought-hit farmers

4. There have been challenges, which have been overcome with fortitude and resolute action. Tamil Nadu is a water starved State and subject to the vagaries of the Monsoons. The year 2012-2013 witnessed a severe drought, hitting agricultural production hard and impairing economic growth. We were able to overcome the calamity of widespread crop failure, only due to the thoughtful and generous gesture of the Hon'ble Chief Minister in announcing and implementing a timely and liberal relief package at a cost of Rs.1,614 crore. This apart, the global economic downtrend and the resultant domestic slowdown, which was also fuelled by the faulty macro-economic policies of the Central Government, have affected growth in Tamil Nadu. This Government, on its part, is trying hard to reverse this trend. In spite of all such challenges, I am sure that our State

will emerge victoriously from this difficult situation under the indefatigable and sagacious leadership of the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

5. Maintenance of public order and ensuring public safety is an essential pre-requisite for socio-economic development. Ever since this Government took over, it has given topmost priority to maintenance of law and order. Firm and timely actions of this Government have preserved public order in the State. Sensitive festivals and anniversaries of leaders passed off peacefully due to effective steps taken by the law enforcement machinery. The attempts of the Maoists to establish their base in the tri-junction area of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka were thwarted by constant vigil. Anti-social elements trying to disturb communal harmony in the State were decisively handled. I am proud to note that the State is free from any major law and order incident. This has been made possible only due to the determination and clear decisions of the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

An agile and effective police force

6. In the last three years, the Police Force was liberally supported with additional manpower, modern weapons, equipment and other infrastructure. Including 10,500 posts for the Tamil Nadu Special Police Youth Brigade, 24,503 additional posts have been added to the policing strength. An amount of Rs.178.65 crore has been allocated by this Government for strengthening mobility, weaponry and other equipment. The State has also witnessed an unprecedented expenditure of Rs.1,448.74 crore for construction of buildings and other infrastructure for the effective functioning of the Police Force.

7. The administrative acumen and foresight shown by the Hon'ble Chief Minister in allowing the Police Force to function freely and effectively has re-invigorated the Force. Encouraged by the support of this Government, the Tamil Nadu Police have performed many spectacular, courageous and gallant acts including the recent arrest of two most wanted terrorists by storming their hideout in Puttur in Andhra Pradesh. Rightly, the Hon'ble Chief Minister rewarded them for such exceptional valour and her unique gesture of personally congratulating all the 260 Police personnel involved, will go a long way in boosting the morale of the entire Police Force.

8. The humanitarian problem of Sri Lankan Tamils being treated as second class citizens in their own land in post-ethnic conflict Sri Lanka and the failure to hold the Sri Lankan regime to account for acts of genocide in the closing stages of the civil war are major emotive issues in the State. This august House has passed resolutions on four separate occasions calling for a firm diplomatic stance to hold the Sri Lankan regime to account for the inhuman acts against the Tamil minority and to secure their basic rights including the right to self-determination. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has written several times to the Hon'ble Prime Minister on this issue as well. Even after the Hon'ble Chief Minister conveyed the strong feelings of Tamils, the Union Minister for External Affairs participated in the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Sri Lanka. This Government will continue to staunchly

support the cause of the Tamil minority in Sri Lanka until their rights are secured.

Swift action to help fishermen

9. The continuing, unprovoked, dastardly, murderous attacks by the Sri Lankan Navy upon the innocent Indian fishermen from Tamil Nadu, who are only pursuing their livelihood in their traditional fishing areas of the Palk Strait, have agitated the entire fisherfolk community in Tamil Nadu. During the last two and a half years, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has also written to the Hon'ble Prime Minister on a number of occasions, seeking firm and decisive diplomatic action on this sensitive issue. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has been waging a heroic and relentless struggle to retrieve Kachatheevu, which has been a part of India geographically, culturally and historically. In a deft move, and with a spirit of accommodation, the Hon'ble Chief Minister agreed to the holding of direct talks between the fishermen communities in Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka. With great tact, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has secured the release of 295 fishermen and their 45 boats from prolonged Sri Lankan custody.

10. A significant accomplishment of this Government is the acquisition of shareholding in the Neyveli Lignite Corporation, which was divested by the Government of India. The Hon'ble Chief Minister came up with a timely and unconventional solution to a complex problem which was threatening industrial peace and also the power situation in the State. The Hon'ble Chief Minister's brilliant solution dispelled the fear and apprehension in

the minds of the workers and put an end to a potential major outbreak of labour unrest.

11. Recently, the Fourteenth Finance Commission visited the State. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has presented the State's views in unequivocal terms. She has pointed out that the fundamental imbalance in the constitutional scheme in the sharing of resource raising powers and of responsibilities for service delivery should be addressed in a fair and transparent manner. The State has demanded a higher vertical devolution and a more transparent and equitable horizontal sharing of Central tax revenues without penalizing progressive States. I hope the Finance Commission will act in a fair and equitable manner and render justice to a well performing State like Tamil Nadu, which has been unfairly discriminated against by Finance Commissions in the past.

Fillip to economy in difficult period

12. Our country is going through a difficult period of economic slowdown. The Gross Domestic Product growth forecasts are being downscaled continuously. The country is facing a complex problem of rising inflation, falling growth and instability in exchange rates. This has particularly affected Tamil Nadu, which is a manufacturing and exporting State. Against this tide, this Government is determined to revive the economy and improve the general economic environment. Though growth in 2012 2013 was only 4.14 percent, we expect growth to revive and comfortably exceed 5 percent during 2013-2014. There is a revival in industrial and agricultural production which would result in a rebound in the service sector growth. To give a fillip to the economy, this Government has substantially increased the Plan expenditure target for the year 2013-2014 to Rs.37,128 crore. **For the year 2014-2015, the Plan size would be further increased to a level of Rs.42,185 crore**.

13. Despite repeated efforts by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, the Government of India is yet to constitute the Cauvery Management Board and Cauvery Water Regulation Committee to ensure effective implementation of the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal. In the absence of Cauvery Management Board, the attempt made by Karnataka to rejuvenate river Arkavati and modernise Hemavathy canals is a violation of the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal. The State Government had approached the Supreme Court on 11.11.2013 for a direction to Government of India to forthwith constitute the Cauvery Management Board and Cauvery Water Regulation Committee.

14. Whenever people from Tamil Nadu face hardship, this Government has always rushed to their rescue, wherever they may be. The

efforts taken by this Government to bring back hundreds of pilgrims from Tamil Nadu who were stranded in the hilly regions of Uttarakhand due to flash floods and catastrophic landslides are laudable. Similarly, this Government also took indefatigable and persistent efforts to bring back 16 fishermen of Nagapattinam, Ramanathapuram and Kanniyakumari Districts languishing in Iranian prisons for more than eight months. Due to the timely intervention of this Government, 18 fishermen from Kanniyakumari District, whose boats were sunk due to the 'Phailin' cyclone which struck the Odisha coast, were also safely rescued. I also appreciate the immediate intervention of the State Government to rescue the affected Tamil people in the recent boat capsize in Andaman Islands.

312 proposals okayed at Collectors' meet

15. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has come out with a plethora of announcements to fulfill the aspirations of the people. These announcements made in the Budget and in the Legislative Assembly by the Hon'ble Chief Minister are already under implementation. The recent Annual Conference of District Collectors and Police Officers also assumed a special significance, as it witnessed the sanction of 312 proposals put forth by the Collectors and Police Officers, mostly pertaining to roads, bridges, drinking water supply and provision of other basic infrastructure and public services. Public needs articulated by the cutting edge level of administration were immediately met. This is yet another illustration of the responsiveness of this Government.

16. This Government has taken a number of pro-active steps to improve the delivery of and greater accessibility to public services. The Revenue Department provides vital services to the people on a day-to-day basis. In this regard, this Government has formed 25 new Taluks during 2013-2014, in addition to the 9 Taluks formed during 2012 2013. To enhance the facilities for the public visiting various Government offices, building infrastructure is being created for District Collectorates, Revenue Divisional Offices and Taluk Offices, wherever required.

17. This Government has introduced a novel scheme called AMMA Thittam, which aims at '**A**ssured **M**aximum service to **M**arginal people in **A**ll villages'. This Scheme takes the Government machinery to the doorsteps of the people with officials visiting villages every Friday and redressing their grievances within the shortest possible time. During the first phase of the AMMA Thittam, all the villages in the State were covered and 33.13 lakh petitions pertaining to the issue of various certificates, social security pensions, patta

transfers and other grievances of the people were dealt with. The scheme is in its second phase and has received an overwhelming response from the public.

18. Promotion of the Tamil language, arts and culture always gains prominence under the able leadership of the Hon'ble Chief Minister. An exclusive website has been created for the World Tamil Sangam, Madurai to provide support for promoting the Tamil language globally. An amount of Rs.4.17 crore was sanctioned for the construction of a new administrative building for the International Institute of Tamil Studies, Taramani, and its foundation stone was laid by the Hon'ble Chief Minister on 23rd December, 2013. Establishment of Sangam Tamil Gallery in Madurai is also in progress. This Government played a pivotal role in organizing a three day celebration to mark the Centenary Year of Indian Cinema in September 2013. For the first time in the history of the State, a separate University has been established for music and fine arts. Restoration of the heritage building of the famous National Art Gallery in the Government Museum, Chennai, at a cost of Rs.11 crore and the establishment of a Field Fossil Museum in Ariyalur at a cost of Rs.2 crore are some of the initiatives which signal the revival of the spirit of preserving our ancient heritage.

Strengthening sports infrastructure

19. I commend the exemplary efforts of the Hon'ble Chief Minister in bringing the prestigious FIDE World Chess Championship Match, 2013 to India for the first time ever. The well organised and colourful event was conducted successfully in Chennai in a grand manner with the Government grant of Rs.29.15 crore. A plethora of initiatives to

promote sports among the youth have also been launched. One such initiative is the award of special scholarships of Rs.25 lakh each to five elite sportspersons, to groom them for the Olympics and other International events. The State has witnessed an unprecedented flow of funds for strengthening sports infrastructure. I am confident that this will go a long way in further developing the sporting culture in the State and bring with it the attendant social benefits.

20. Inclusive growth is not possible without achieving a substantial increase in the income of the people engaged in the Primary Sector. This Government lays special emphasis on improving the production and productivity of agricultural crops by adopting strategies like disseminating high-end technologies, popularising micro irrigation and promoting farm mechanisation. Substantial investments are being made in developing the post harvest and market infrastructure. More innovative approaches are being followed to promote the cultivation of high value crops including fruits and vegetables. It is heartening to note that the State has been awarded with the Krishi Karman award by the Government of India in 2013 for achieving higher food grain production during 2011-2012. Though the State has faced a shortfall of 33 percent in the North-East Monsoon rains, the food grain production is expected to surpass 100 lakh Metric Tonnes during 2013-2014.

Boosting the rural economy

21. To assure remunerative prices to farmers for their produce, this Government has fixed the Minimum Support Price for paddy at Rs.1,360 per quintal and Rs.1,415 per quintal for common and fine varieties respectively during the 2013-2014 Kharif season, much above the Minimum Support Price of Rs.1,310

and Rs.1,345 fixed by the Government of India. Similarly, the State has fixed the State Advised Price for sugarcane at Rs.2,650 per MT, inclusive of Rs.100 per MT for transportation cost, even though the Government of India fixed the Fair and Remunerative Price only at Rs.2,100 per MT for the current year.

22. The rural economy mainly hinges on the growth of agriculture and allied sectors. The Hon'ble Chief Minister's flagship programme of distributing milch cows to genuinely poor persons has provided high value economic assets to over 32,000 poor persons in the last two and a half years. Similarly, the distribution of free sheep and goats to the poor people in the rural areas has benefited 3.72 lakh landless poor women beneficiaries. This Government also gives greater importance to strengthening of veterinary infrastructure, in order to sustain the growth of the Animal Husbandry Sector.

23. Tamil Nadu is the only State in the country to implement a Universal Public Distribution System to ensure food security to all. Over 1.86 crore families are benefited with free rice, subsidized dal, edible oil, wheat, sugar and kerosene. An amount of Rs.4,900 crore has been allocated as food subsidy during 2013-2014. This Government is of the view that the National Food Security Act as enacted by the Government of India will not achieve the goal of food security effectively. Although, the Government of India modified the Draft Bill to protect the current level of allocation and offtake of food grains under the Public Distribution System due to the persistent efforts of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, the Act still has several shortcomings. Lack of long term guarantees on pricing of the food grains, limited coverage of the urban population and lack of clear guidelines for identification of eligible households are issues with the National Food Security Act which could compromise the desired outcome. I reiterate

the position of this Government that the new system brought in by the Act should provide sufficient flexibility to protect the Universal Public Distribution System currently being implemented in Tamil Nadu.\

Amma Unavagams, a boon

24. This Government is taking all possible measures to insulate the poor from the rising prices of essential commodities. Apart from supplying essential commodities at subsidized cost, the Price Stabilization Fund of Rs.100 crore is being used for selective market interventions to procure and supply various essential commodities at cost price. The opening of the Farm Fresh Vegetable shops in Chennai has received many accolades, as it links farmers directly with the consumers, thus benefiting both. Launching of Amma Drinking Water and Amma Unavagams are landmark initiatives taken by this Government to serve the poor better. The 290 Amma Unavagams that have been opened so far in Chennai and in other cities are a boon to the poor and downtrodden. It is no wonder that other States are emulating this noble initiative envisioned by the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

25. The Tamil Nadu Vision 2023 document unveiled by the Hon'ble Chief Minister heralded a new era for guided economic development, particularly in developing economic infrastructure in the State. In this document, 217 priority infrastructure projects have been specifically identified for execution. A policy framework and institutional support system has been put in place in the form of the Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Development Act, Rules and Regulations. A legislative framework to deal with Public-Private-Partnership projects has also been put in place in the form of the Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders (Public-Private Partnership Procurement) Rules. Tamil Nadu is the first State to have such a legislative framework.

26. The Tamil Nadu Investment Promotion Programme (TNIPP) with the assistance of the Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA), a very innovatively designed programme, was launched by this Government with an assistance of Rs.770 crore. This project is aimed at the removal of infrastructural bottlenecks through small and medium size projects. Twelve such projects at an estimated cost of Rs.834 crore have already been approved under this programme covering sectors like Power, Water Supply, Urban Amenities and Roads. This is a new initiative which provides a flexible funding option with external aid to improve the investment climate in the State.

New Directions in power sector

27. The greatest challenges faced by this Government are in the Power Sector. Huge power shortage, weak transmission and distribution infrastructure and debt trapped power utilities were some of the challenges inherited by this Government. It is the ingenuity and broad vision of the Hon'ble Chief Minister which have guided the dramatic turnaround in the Power Sector. Substantial new capacity has been added by expediting pending power generation projects like Unit I and II of TNEB-NTPC joint venture project at Vallur, Stage III of the Mettur Power Project and Unit I and II of the North Chennai Thermal Power Project –Stage II. These developments have provided great relief to the people of our State.

28. Huge investments have also been made in strengthening the transmission and distribution infrastructure including evacuation of Wind Power. Added to this, long term power purchase agreements have also been made to fortify the power supply in the long run. This will ensure reliable power supply once the connectivity of the Southern Grid with other

power grids gets stabilised. In addition, this Government has put in the pipeline several new thermal and hydro power projects. It has also placed a greater emphasis on harnessing Solar Power by unveiling an investor friendly New Solar Power Policy. All these efforts will certainly ensure adequate power availability in the State, boosting industrial development in the future.

29. Tamil Nadu is the first State to execute the Financial Restructuring Plan (FRP) to mitigate the financial crisis faced by its power utility. As per the plan, a liability of Rs.6,353 crore has to be taken over by the State Government, which will be discharged over a period of five years. I am confident that these efforts will certainly restore the financial health of the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (TANGEDCO).

30. Road transport plays a pivotal role in economic development. This Government is giving special priority to develop ring roads and bypasses to ease traffic flow in urban areas. Several such works are at various stages of implementation across the State. The existing roads are also being upgraded continuously under the Comprehensive Road Infrastructure Development Programme (CRIDP). During 2013-2014, this Government has provided Rs.2,500 crore for widening 1,697 km of roads, improvement of 3,529 km roads and construction of 229 bridges and culverts.

31. Tamil Nadu continues to be a preferred destination for investment, particularly in the Manufacturing Sector. Investors continue to prefer Tamil Nadu because of the better infrastructure, well maintained law and order and skilled manpower. This Government is promoting balanced industrial development, particularly in the Southern Districts, for which a special package of incentives has been announced. A corridor based approach is envisioned for targeting more investment to promote industries in backward areas. The

implementation of the Madurai-Thoothukudi Industrial Corridor is gathering pace and will facilitate the growth of manufacturing hubs, knowledge hubs and agricultural production zones, with enormous potential for employment and exports.

32. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has recently pointed out that the State at present enjoys a demographic dividend of having a very high proportion of its population in the working age group, an advantage which may not last very long. Therefore, the State is focusing on enhancing investment in social and economic infrastructure to capitalize on this advantage before it fades away. Distribution of free Laptop computers is one such landmark initiative. The unique initiative of the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Mission has already been launched to deal with the challenges of building the skill level of our youth to make them employable. As a part of this initiative, this Government will launch a "State Portal on Employment" as an integrated platform for job seekers and employers. This offers a single window of information on job counseling, training and placement facilitation. Further, the State will also seek funding and technical support for the State Skill Development Mission from international funding agencies.

Green House Scheme, a great success

33. This Government has launched a number of schemes for the welfare of the people, particularly to provide food, clothing and shelter for dignified living to the poor in the rural areas. Amongst these schemes, the Chief Minister's Solar Powered Green House Scheme stands out as a unique programme. Over the last three years, 1.80 lakh houses

have been sanctioned. This year, the unit cost has also been increased to Rs.2.10 lakh from Rs.1.80 lakh. This scheme will further benefit another 1.2 lakh poor families in the next two years. The Tamil Nadu Village Habitation Improvement Scheme (THAI), the innovative rural infrastructure development scheme focusing on each habitation, has improved amenities in the villages and has greatly benefited them. Water supply, sanitation and upgradation of roads continue to get top priority under this scheme.

34. With 48 percent of the State's population living in urban areas, the challenge of providing civic amenities in these areas is a daunting task. It is the ingenuity and farsightedness of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, which has made it possible to face this challenge by launching the much acclaimed Chennai Mega City Development Mission with an annual allocation of Rs.500 crore and the Integrated Urban Development Mission with an annual allocation of Rs.750 crore. These initiatives have greatly supplemented the available resources of Local Bodies for investment in infrastructure and provision of basic services. This Government is also seeking support from the World Bank for the Tamil Nadu

Sustainable Urban Development Project IV to give a further boost to urban infrastructure and to enhance execution capacity.

35. Providing adequate potable drinking water to the ever expanding Chennai City is a formidable challenge. The long term strategy of this Government is to add new capacity and improve the existing storage capacity, besides tapping water supply from non conventional sources including desalination plants. In this regard, the efforts of this Government to establish a new reservoir at Thervaikandigai village, a check dam across the Kosasthalayar river in Thirukandalam and augmenting the existing capacity of storage reservoirs in and around Chennai and the Veeranam lake, will be of great benefit in the long run. It is gratifying to note that the desalination plants at Minjur and Nemmeli are functioning to full capacity and are adding a capacity of 200 mld together. This is a great relief to the citizens of Chennai. The farsightedness of the Government envisaging to put up a 150 mld plant at Nemmeli and another 400 mld plant in South Chennai, for which project preparation is underway, will significantly augment he drinking water supply in future.

36. Haphazard expansion of urban agglomerations causes growth of slums. The strategies of this Government to address this issue include increasing access to affordable housing for the poor and middle classes, improving the amenities in the existing slums and resettling the families either in-situ or in a better environment. In the last two and a half years this Government has constructed 21,750 units and resettled 7,253 families.

Good pace of Metro Rail Project

37. I am happy to note that the Chennai Metro Rail Project is progressing well. The Hon'ble

Chief Minister has inaugurated the test run of the Metro Rail on 6th November, 2013. So far, an amount of Rs.3,060.74 crore has been provided by the State as share capital and subordinate debt, besides back to back loan support of Rs.3,864.83 crore from the Japan International Co operation Agency. This Government will ensure faster clearance from the Government of India for the Washermenpet to Thiruvottriyur corridor, besides taking up the DPR for Phase II of the project in newly identified corridors.

38. This Government has successfully implemented the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act since 2011. The gross enrolment in Government schools has substantially increased in recent years, as a result of the extension of several benefits to students like text books, note books, atlases, maps, school bags, geometry boxes, colour pencils, crayons, footwear, four sets of uniform, bi-cycles, free bus passes, noon-meal, special cash incentive to reduce drop outs at Secondary level and free laptop computers. Of the 51,447 "out of school" children identified, this year 43,838 children have been successfully enrolled in mainstream school education. This was possible due to the novel initiatives of providing escort services, special transport facilities to bring children from remote and tribal habitations to school and enrolment of children of migrant labourers in the nearby Government Schools.

39. Numerous initiatives have been taken to improve the standards of higher education in this State. Setting up of the Indian Institute

of Information Technology and the National Law School in Srirangam constituency and the establishment of several new Arts and Science colleges, Engineering colleges and Polytechnic colleges in backward areas are a few laudable initiatives. When Annamalai University was about to collapse due to mismanagement, this Government took over the reins and appointed an administrator. The Hon'ble Members are well aware that this Government introduced the Annamalai University Bill 2013, which this august House passed subsequently, and I am happy to note that His Excellency, the President of India, has given his assent to the Bill and it has become an Act now. Thus, the glory of the Eighty Four year old institution serving a vast number of youth in the State has been fully restored.

40. Under the cherished vision and charismatic leadership of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Tamil Nadu has emerged as a model State in India in providing comprehensive health care services. The primary and secondary health care services have been expanded significantly. The National Rural Health Mission and the Tamil Nadu Health Systems Project have contributed immensely in achieving higher standards of public health care in the State. Under the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme, health cover is being provided to 1.29 crore families. This scheme has so far benefited 5,84,554 persons to an extent of Rs.1,255.85 crore. The Government of India has also appreciated the efforts of the State Government in health care, particularly its achievement in reducing the Maternal Mortality Rate and Infant Mortality Rate. During 2013 2014, the State also received Rs.149.51 crore as the performance linked incentive grant recommended by the Thirteenth Finance Commission.

41. This Government is implementing several programmes for the benefit of socially and economically disadvantaged groups. It is heartening to note that 10,61,561 students belonging to the Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes, Denotified Communities and Minorities are getting the benefit of Scholarships at a cost of Rs.274.47 crore. The landmark decision to extend the benefit of post-matric scholarship to reimburse tuition fees to Adi Dravidar and Tribal students studying even in private colleges has created a revolution in education and brought them into the mainstream of higher education. In order to cater to the increased number of students availing of such benefits, this Government has stepped up the Post matric scholarship provision for the benefit of students belonging to the Adi Dravidar and Tribal communities to Rs.936.46 crore in the current fiscal year from the Budget Estimates of Rs.396.88 crore for 2013 2014. I applaud this decision of the Government which has opened up a new window of opportunities to lakhs of poor students belonging to the socially deprived sections of the Society. It is also gratifying to see that substantial investments are being made for improving the hostel facilities for such students, thereby creating a more congenial and enabling environment for their studies.

42. Tamil Nadu is a model welfare State, the envy of other States, with many unique welfare programmes. Our State is always a pioneer in rolling out such programmes which become a precursor for replication at the National level. Various Social Security Pension schemes are being implemented in the State, providing financial security to over 37 lakh persons, with an assistance of Rs.1,000 per month. Over the years, the allocation towards these schemes has been enhanced to over Rs.4,000 crore per annum by this Government. Marriage assistance programmes, programmes for the welfare of differently abled persons, women and children are some of the laudable initiatives of this Government, which have made the State an outstanding performer in providing welfare support to socially and economically marginalised people.

43. I have broadly outlined the initiatives and policies of this Government.

44. I am fully confident that under the sagacious and visionary leadership of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, the State will march forward. I am sure that in the forthcoming session this House will debate and discuss issues of importance to the State and come out with more initiatives for the upliftment of the people. I conclude my address with my warm New Year greetings once again.

Nanri

Vanakkam

Jai Hind

Chief Minister's eloquent reply to debate on Governor's address

'A people's government that works for the people on all fronts'

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Selvi J Jayalalithaa's reply on 03.02.2014 to the debate on the motion of thanks to the Governor's speech *(English Translation)*

Hon'ble Speaker sir,

Participating in the debate on the motion of thanks to the Governor's Address, leaders of different parties and Hon'ble Members have expressed their viewpoints. They appreciated the good things in the Address and sought remedies for the shortcomings.

But without utilising the opportunity available to them to speak in the Assembly, some have expressed their views whimsically and without any basis outside this House, with the sole aim of levelling charges against this Government. Despite having held office in the past, and holding office now, they have spoken in a vaguely general and irresponsible way.

As far as we are concerned, we plan for the good of the people. And our schemes reach the people. There may be shortcomings here and there; there may be some defects in the implementation at some places and we will not hesitate to rectify them if they are pointed out. But it is unacceptable to slam them in toto. The positive and negative aspects of a thing are like two sides of a coin. Any scheme or

action can be viewed positively or negatively. It all depends on how one views it.

Some of the speakers pointed out the flaws in the Government machinery. They did not level accusations. But some depicted deficiencies as crimes.

Impartial judgement reveals the truth

I want to illustrate this with an example. A plus two girl student prepares for the examination with the intention of scoring cent per cent marks. Her parents and those having interest in her will desire the same thing. They will feel sad over the loss of 4 marks if the student scores 96 marks, as the student has the capacity to score centum. The sadness is an expression of anxiety that in future examinations such a lapse should not recur. I take it that those who have pointed out the deficiencies here, have done so in a similar fashion. But at the same time those who have not shown any interest in the welfare of that girl student will exhibit their jealousy and intolerance by deriding her performance, saying that scoring 96 or 40 are one and the same as long as the score is less than 100! Or they will belittle the achievement of the girl student, saying that 96 marks is a low score since the questions were easy and she should have scored centum. Those who level unjust charges against the schemes of this Government and the way they are implemented are like this second category of people.

Saint Thiruvalluvar says: "Scrutinise the plus and minus points; find out which is predominant; then come to a clear decision".

In 1961, Perarignar Anna, then sitting in the Opposition spoke congratulating Minister C. Subramaniam on the concluding day of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly for that 5-year team as the Minister was moving from State politics to Central politics and had decided to contest the impending Lok Sabha election.

Anna said: "My party colleague and Member Thiru. Govindasamy compared Hon'ble Subramaniam, our Finance Minister, Leader of the House and a prominent member of the Congress party, to Lord Jesus. I felt happy for a moment at the comparison; I thought I can take pride that I have associated with Hon'ble Subramaniam, Lord Jesus for 5 years".

Intervening Thiru. Subramaniam said: "I should be spared the crucifixion".

Do you know what a splendid reply Anna gave to this?

"The next moment, I had reservations about the comparison. Because I felt that no danger should overtake this Jesus by being betrayed by one of his own disciples!".

How beautifully, and humorously Anna had conveyed the idea that the leader could anticipate trouble from his own partymen but not from the opposition!

Thiru. C.S. saw one side of the coin. Perarignar Anna saw the other.

Hence, I wish to register my view have that it is better to express one's opinion after seeing both the sides of a coin and not one side alone.

Seeing one side of the coin, some Members have levelled charges against this Government with the intention to slander it and cast a slur on the good name it has earned among the people.

The criterion of people's welfare

The people are not on the side of those who, out of political malice slander my Government which has been implementing many welfare programmes. As Perarignar Anna said, their own partymen will be responsible for their fall,

for their destruction. Even their own family members may have a hand in it! There is no faltering on our part. People are with us, who are implementing welfare programmes for them. And we are on the side of the people.

Hon'ble Speaker,

At the outset, I wish to clarify that the constructive views expressed by the opposition will be taken into account and the defects pointed out by them will certainly be removed if there is truth in them.

Hon'ble Speaker,

My Government does not want to cheat people by offering useless freebies. I spoke in this very same Assembly as leader of opposition, comparing those offering useless freebies with charlatans duping children by performing gimmicks. People understood this and threw out such charlatans in 2011. Greater attention should be bestowed on human resources development if the people and the State are to prosper. This is the policy that my Government follows. That is why I give importance to education and health which will benefit future generations.

Education for all

Hon'ble Speaker,

As education will pave the way for the social and economic development, my Government is implementing programmes that will take education to all sections of people, particularly to the poor, downtrodden, marginalised and socially and economically backward sections. In the current financial year, Rs. 16,965.37 crore has been allotted for school education. The previous minority DMK Government had allotted Rs. 11,274.75 crore in 2010-2011. Students studying in Government and Government-aided schools are given textbooks, notebooks, 4 sets of uniforms, school bags, footwear, geometry box, crayons, colour pencils and atlas at no cost. Free bus passes are issued to students from 1st to 12thstandard. Bicycles are distributed at no cost for students in higher secondary schools to help them be punctual. Laptops are also provided.

An education incentive of Rs. 1,500/- is given to students of the 10th and 11th standards to reduce the incidence of drop-outs from schools and Rs. 2,000/- to students of 12thstandard. This amount is invested in the Tamil Nadu Power Finance and Infrastructure Development Corporation and distributed to students once they complete their higher secondary education. In the current year alone, about 23 lakh students have benefited by this scheme.

A deposit of Rs. 50,000/- is created in a public sector undertaking in the names of students in Government and Government-aided schools who lose their earning parents, so that their studies can continue unhindered. In the last 2 ½ years 1,080 students have benefited by this scheme.

We have introduced online registration with employment exchange for students who have completed the 10th and 12th standard of study at their school itself to obviate difficulties for students. Likewise caste, domicile and income certificates are issued to students through the school headmaster who obtains them from the concerned Tahsildars.

A 3-term semester system of study has been introduced for students of 1st to 9th standards to eliminate stress and remove the fear of examinations. As the textbooks change every semester, the severe book load is reduced. Practicals promoting creative thinking and skills are included in the textbooks.

Mobile counselling centres have been commissioned for stress reduction in students

of high and higher secondary schools. So far 46,794 wards have benefited.

Chess has been introduced to students in Government and Government-aided schools for improving students' concentration and for enhancing analytical and problem solving skills. Students numbering 11,25,628 have participated in chess competitions.

Hypocrisy on English education exposed

As parents desire that their wards should learn the English language, they prefer private English medium schools unmindful of the heavy fees levied. Last year, English medium sections were started in some Government schools with a view to provide opportunities for children desirous of studying in that stream and with the requisite talent as also to lessen the financial burden of the poor parents. This year, English medium sections have been started in the 1st and 6th standards in 6,594 schools. Besides, spoken language training in English is also imparted.

Some decry this move with a view to slander this Government. But do these critics put their children in Tamil medium stream? Did Thiru. M.K. Stalin, leader of the DMK Legislative party put his children in Tamil medium? No! Do the schools run by their family members at least offer Tamil medium of instruction? That is also not there. Even the names of their schools are in English. The Sunshine Academy Matriculation Higher Secondary School at Rajeswari Street, Metha Nagar, Chennai- 29 is run by "Durgavathi Educational Trust". The Director of this school is Thirumathi. Senthamarai Sabareesan, daughter of Thiru. M. K. Stalin. His daughter-in-law Thirumathi. Krithika Udayanidhi is a member of this Trust. Does this school run Tamil medium classes?

Likewise, Sunshine Montessori Nursery and Elementary School is functioning from Rani Street, Dr. Seethapathy Nagar, Velachery, Chennai and Sunshine Chennai Senior Secondary School from Madipakkam. Thirumathi. Senthamarai Sabareesan is Director of both these schools. Not only is English medium of instruction offered here but Hindi also is being taught. The annual fees for the Kindergarden classes is Rs. 9,000/- and that for the 11th and 12th standards, Rs. 15,400/-.

All private schools have English medium classes and charge exorbitant fees. The poor and the downtrodden too should enjoy similar facilities without paying any fees. That is why English medium of study is offered in one section in 6,594 Government schools.

Qualified teachers are necessary to impart quality education to students. Taking this into account, I have ordered the filling up of 68,481 teacher vacancies and till date 51,757 teachers have been appointed. I want to record here that the reservation rules were followed in toto in all these appointments. I am happy to inform that my Government created a record by issuing appointment orders to 20,920 teachers in a day. As for the non-teaching posts, I have given sanction for 19,673 posts and 10,220 have been filled up.

In the current financial year alone, Rs. 366 crore has been allotted for improving infrastructure in schools.

Measures like starting new primary schools, upgrading schools from primary to middle, from middle to high schools and from high to higher secondary schools have also been taken up by my Government. Fifty-four new primary schools have been started on the principle that for every 300 population there should be a school within a KM periphery. After my Government took over, 1,125 schools have been upgraded. My Government has also taken some innovative steps like holding re-examinations in all subjects in June/July for failed students of 10th and 12th standards so as to enable them to continue their higher education without loss of an academic year, and issuing certificates with photo and additional security features for students who appear for public examinations.

Implementation of such innovative measures in school education and other steps to reduce drop-outs resulted in a considerable increase in student strength in the 10th standard. In 2010-2011, the number of students in 10th standard was 8,38,165 and it went up to 11.40 lakh in 2013-2014. As for 12th standard, the number went up from 7,16,543 in 2010-2011 to 8.40 lakh in 2013-2014.

As for pass percentage in 10th standard public examination, it went up from 85.3 in 2011 to 89 in 2013. The respective figures for the 12th standard public examination for the same years, were 85.9 and 88.1.

Colleges, polytechnics galore

In the sphere of higher education, new engineering colleges were started in the districts of Tiruchirapalli, Theni, Dharmapuri and Thanjavur. Eleven polytechnic colleges have been opened across the State so far. Twenty-four University constituent Arts and Science colleges and 12 Government Arts and Science colleges have been started. For infrastructure development in colleges, Rs. 100 crore has been allotted and works are on. Assistant Professor vacancies in colleges are being filled as per reservation norms. In sum, we have brought about an educational revolution in Tamil Nadu. Soon, we will achieve 100 per cent literacy in the State.

Paving the way for health care

Hon'ble Speaker,

Public Health claims equal importance with education in ensuring prosperity to the people. A Medical Services Recruitment Board, the first of its kind in India, has been set up for filling up vacancies in time with qualified doctors and medical staff. Through this Board, 2,334 Doctors have been selected and appointed as per reservation rules. Before the formation of the Board, 2,027 Doctors were appointed as per reservation norms. Totally,

with AIIMS (All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi) is being set up.

4,361 doctors have been appointed in time scale pay. Likewise, 912 para medical workers have been appointed.

The Chief Minister's Comprehensive Medical Insurance scheme is being implemented for the benefit of the poor and downtrodden. Under this new scheme, insurance cover is provided for 4 years at the rate of Rs. one lakh per year, per family. For certain kinds of treatment, the cover goes up to Rs. 1.5 lakh per year. If a member of the family is differently abled, production of income certificate is dispensed with to enjoy the insurance cover. The scheme has been extended to Sri Lankan Tamils living in Tamil Nadu. So far, 5.84 lakh poor people have been treated under this scheme, at a cost of Rs. 1,256 crore. Of this, 2.25 lakh persons have been treated in Government hospitals at a cost of Rs. 447 crore. A special corpus fund with an investment of Rs. 10 crore has been created to meet in full, the expenditure incurred over and above the insurance cover in respect of special surgical treatment. Beneficiaries under this scheme number 926.

At the Omandurar Government Estate, a Multi-super Speciality Hospital, on par

A new multi-storeyed building has been constructed for the Chennai Dental College where more than 2000 outpatients are getting treated. Moreover, works are in full swing for constructing an additional building for the college, for creating new posts and for making it a Centre of Excellence in Dentistry.

As for medical insurance for government employees, the earlier minority DMK Government gave a cover through a private insurance company for Rs. 2 lakh in 4 years. After I became the Chief Minister in 2011, I expanded the cover to Rs. 4 lakh in 4 years and shifted the agreement with the insurance company from a private sector one to a Central Government company – the United India Insurance.

Caring for mother and child

Fifty-eight Primary Health Centres in rural areas have been upgraded to 30-bed hospitals in a bid to provide medical facilities to villages on par with urban areas. In 42 Primary Health Centres , Maternal Child Health Care Centres have been established at a cost of Rs. 20 crore. All obstetric equipment has been provided to these hospitals for dealing with emergency cases. Besides, 47 new Primary Health Centres have been started at a cost of Rs. 28 crore. New equipment costing Rs. 13 crore has been distributed in 27 District Hospitals. Orders have been issued to convert

the Maternal Child Health Centres at the Madurai and Salem Medical College Hospitals into Centres of Excellence. A similar centre at the Egmore Hospital of Obstetrics has been upgraded. All Government Medical College Hospitals have been strengthened. Steps have been taken to start Obstetric and Newborn Care Centres in 55 hospitals. Village Nurses have been provided with laptops for improving their work of recording data on pregnant women, children and lactating mothers.

I have also ordered the setting up 118 new Primary Health Centres at a cost of Rs. 100 crore and the upgrading of 64 PHCs into 30-bed PHCs at a cost of Rs. 77 crore for improving medical facilities in rural areas.

We have increased the maternity financial assistance under the Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Benefit Scheme to Rs. 12,000/- from Rs. 6,000/- to be disbursed in 3 equal instalments – at the pre-natal, post-natal periods and after the completion of the immunisation regimen. This acts as an incentive to get pregnancy period services and ensures delivery at hospitals and administration of immunity medicines to the newborn. Every year, six lakh persons benefit from this scheme. So far, Rs. 1,667 crore has been disbursed.

The Health Index has registered a growth on account of the anticipatory steps taken for ensuring public health. The infant mortality rate below one year has now come down to 21 for every 1,000 deliveries from 24 in 2010. The rate for below 5 years of age has come down to 24 in 2012 from 27 in 2010. Likewise, the maternal mortality rate has now come down to 73 for every one lakh deliveries with live births from 79 in 2010.

My Government is taking numerous steps to ensure health for the people, an essential ingredient for country's growth.

The way to inclusive growth

Hon'ble Speaker,

While education and Public Health Schemes will bear fruit in future, my Government is taking numerous steps to protect the interests of the marginalised sections of the people.

We are firm in our conviction that the lowest strata of society should be protected. Hence we increased the pension under the social security scheme to Rs. 1,000/- for the welfare of housewives, we are distributing mixie, grinder and fan at no cost. So far more then 71 lakh family card holders have benefited from it. A scheme to distribute cows and goats is being implemented. So far 32,052 cows and 14,97,624 goats have been distributed. Under the Chief Minister's Solar Powered Green House scheme, 1,80,000 persons have

benefited. A marriage assistance scheme is being implemented under which poor women get Rs. 25,000/- and 4 gms gold for 'Thaali' and graduate/diploma women get Rs. 50,000/- and 4 gms of gold. More than 2.86 lakh women have benefited. Through the Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation, poor people are able to see more television channels at lesser cost.

Likewise several schemes are implemented for differently-abled persons. As a result, the Central Government has selected Tamil Nadu as the best state for the year 2013 under the 'Empowerment of the Differently-abled' section and presented an award.

Hon'ble Speaker,

Due to the wrong economic policies of the Central Government and faulty price fixation of diesel, petrol, and cooking gas, prices are rising. The Hon'ble Prime Minister himself has acknowledged that the Central Government has failed in controlling price rise. He has said, "We have also not been as successful in controlling inflation as we would have wished. This is primarily because food inflation has increased."

The heart to help people fight inflation

The Central Government's fiscal policy and the Reserve Bank's Monetary policy control the prices. Prices can be controlled only when the Central Government's extensive economic policies and other policies – are corrected. However, my Government has been doing whatever is possible at the State-level to control the prices. Twenty kilos of rice is distributed to all family card holders free of cost. No other State is giving free rice at this level. A price stabilisation fund has been created and Rs. 100 crore has been deposited for controlling the open market price of goods. Through Amudham shops, co-operatives and

super markets rice is sold at Rs. 20/- a kilo. Through a special public distribution scheme, Palm oil is sold at Rs. 25/- a litre, and toor and urad dhall at Rs. 30/- kilo each. To control the prices of vegetables in urban areas, farm fresh outlets have been opened to link the farmers and the consumers through co-operatives and the horticulture department. My Government has abolished the Value Added Tax on cooking gas from 1.7.2011, in the interests of poor housewives. In a pioneering move, Amma restaurants have been opened in all municipalities for the benefit of the poor and downtrodden. In these restaurants, idly is sold at Re. 1/- a piece, pongal, sambar rice, curry leaf rice, lemon rice at Rs. 5/- each and curd rice at Rs. 3/-.

Over and above all this, my Government has been implementing schemes benefiting countless people in vindication of the stand, 'Government for the people'. They include Amma scheme to redress the grievances of people, 'Amma Water Scheme' to supply mineral water to passengers travelling by Government buses at Rs. 10/- a litre, operation of mini buses in Chennai city to link areas not connected by bus service to the nearest bus stand and railway station, commissioning of new bus routes, inducting new buses to the fleet, grants for Christians to go on pilgrimage to Jerusalem, for Hindus to go to Manasarovar and Mukthinath, increased pension to Ulemas, pension benefits to more Ulemas, and financial assistance to Wakf Board.

Hon'ble Speaker,

Many members expressed their views on the power problem.

As for electricity, Tamil Nadu which remained submerged in darkness is emerging from it due to the tremendous efforts my Government has taken in the last two years and nine months. In my first term of rule between 1991 and 1996, about 1300 MW was added to the installed capacity. In my second term between 2001 and 2006, about 2,500 MW was added.

In my present third term I have been taking steps earnestly to increase power generation in keeping with the demand.

Additional power to the tune of 2,500 MW – 600 MW from the 3rd unit of the Mettur Thermal station, 700 MW from the 2 units of the Vellur combined project and 1,200 MW from the 2 units of the North Chennai Thermal Plant – is being generated now. That is, from the level of 8000-9000 MW, power generation has, as on 29.1.2014, touched 12,799 MW and created a record. I am happy to share this information with the House.

In the last session of the Legislative Assembly when I informed that we were getting 1,700 MW of power additionally on account of the implementation of new power projects, the DMK leader Thiru. Karunanidhi tried to share the credit by saying 'this 1,700 MW of power is attained solely through the projects started in the DMK rule'.

Did the Central power units fail to a plan?

However, within a few days, power obtained from Central power stations including those of new joint ventures that were not handed over to the 'Tamil Nadu Electricity Board', and from Public Sector Undertakings fell by about 2,500 MW. My Government was forced to enforce power cut once again. Pointing this out, I wrote a letter to Hon'ble Prime Minister on 25.11.2013 in which I stated that the people of Tamil Nadu could not believe that the Central power generation stations including the joint venture under the National Thermal Power Corporation and the power generation stations run on an experimental basis by the

Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd could give their worst performance at the same time. I had also mentioned in that letter that a reduction in the generation of electricity to a level of 2,500 MW in power generation stations functioning under the control of the public sector undertakings of the Central Government would make the people of Tamil Nadu believe that it was a planned conspiracy to plunge Tamil Nadu into darkness. Referring to this, Thiru. Karunanidhi told journalists: "The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister has written to the Prime Minister on this allegation. After the receipt of the reply, I will offer my explanation". Without getting any reply from the Prime Minister, he offered an explanation within a day or two on why the supply from the Central power grid got reduced.

Then, the Hon'ble Prime Minister, in his letter dated 16.12.2013 listed the reasons that affected the electricity generation and stated: "Thus it may seem that by sheer coincidence various problems have hit the power sector in Tamil Nadu at the same time. However, efforts are being made to resolve these problems at the earliest". Hon'ble Members and the people of Tamil Nadu can make their own inference on this.

As I stated earlier, we are now getting an additional 2,500 MW of electricity. Besides, long-standing agreements to get electricity for 15 years, to the tune of 3,330 MW, have been entered into. Of this, 74 MW comes from a private power station in Tamil Nadu from 1.1.2014; 1098 MW will flow from private stations being set up in Thoothukudi and Cuddalore districts in 2014-2015 and the balance 2,158 MW from the private power stations in the states of Chattisgarh, Odisha, Jharkhand and Maharashtra. When the Sholapur-Raichur power cable line, under trial now, goes commercial shortly, we will get 1,426 MW from the month of August. As a result of the consistent efforts of my Government, Kudankulam Atomic Power Station has reached criticality. Shortly, this plant will reach its full generating capacity.

For meeting future demands, global tenders have been floated for setting up 3,300 MW thermal stations and bids have been received. Very soon they will be finalised. Preliminary inspection works for the Sillahalla pumped storage Hydro-electric Project have been completed. Work for preparing a detailed project report will be taken up shortly.

Steps are taken to strengthen the power infrastructure in Tamil Nadu, particularly Chennai, by setting up five 400 KV (kilovolt) substations and fourteen 230 KV substations on an investment of Rs. 5,000 crore with Japanese aid to the tune of Rs. 3,572 crore. Of the five 400 KV sub stations, tender bids for 2 have been finalised. Tender for one station has

been floated and for remaining 2, tenders are to be floated. Of the fourteen 230 KV substations tender bids have been finalised for 4, tender bids are under examination for 6 and tenders are to be floated this month for the remaining 4.

Tenderers have been selected for the setting up of a 400 KV sub station and connected powerlines at Tiruvalam, Vellore District at a cost of Rs. 1,000 crore. Works are apace.

Likewise, of the 56 new substations announced to be set up at an estimate of Rs. 8,000 crores, 9 have been commissioned, 24 are being set up; tenders have been finalised in respect of 8 stations and work orders are about to be issued; tenders have been floated for 9 and for the remaining 6 tenders are to be floated.

To supply electricity to consumers in an orderly way, 16,151 new transformers have so far been set up in the current financial year. New power connections, numbering 27.5 lakh have been provided from May 2011 when this Government assumed office to December 2013.

I am happy to inform this Assembly that Tamil Nadu will soon achieve, as I have assured you, zero load shedding.

Hon'ble Speaker,

My Government is giving top priority to agriculture for increasing the income of farmers. Necessary steps to increase the area of cultivation and agricultural production are taken continuously so that farmers can secure a good income.

After I assumed office as Chief Minister, for the first time in the history of Tamil Nadu, I ordered the release of water from Mettur reservoir on June 6, 2011. On account of this and the adoption of innovative techniques, foodgrain production in 2011-2012 rose to a record 101.52 lakh tonnes. This fetched the State the Central Government's 'Krishi Karman' award.

However, no new record could be achieved in the succeeding year (2012-2013) as the monsoons failed and the state and Karnataka refused to release water in the Cauvery river. Still, foodgrain production loss was reduced considerably by adopting several techniques including micro irrigation and ensuring 12-hours uninterrupted 3-phase power supply to agriculture sector. By way of providing relief to farmers affected by drought, all districts excepting Chennai were declared drought-hit and my Government met the entire premium of crop insurance to the tune of Rs. 27.67 crore for about 5.32 lakh agriculturists.

In the delta area, as the standing paddy crop was hit by drought in 3.61 lakh acres; Rs. 524 crore was distributed to 3,52,613 farmers at the rate of Rs. 15,000/- per acre. In the non-delta areas, cultivation in 22.89 lakh acres was affected. A sum of Rs. 804.24 crore was distributed as relief to 17.37 lakh farmers at the rate of Rs. 5,000/- per acre where the paddy crop loss was more than 50 per cent, at Rs. 4000/- per acre for the loss of other crops and 'Pallaandu' crops, and at Rs. 3,000/- per acre for non-irrigated crops and mulberry. Totally, Rs. 1328.24 crore was disbursed to 20.90 lakh farmers.

In 2013-2014, paddy cultivation has been taken up across Tamil Nadu in 40.50 lakh acres till the end of 24-1-2014. Other crops are also raised. Foodgrain production this year will touch about 100 lakh tonnes. Compared to last year, foodgrain production will go up by 59 per cent.

The system of Rice Intensification is taken up in 2000 villages in 2013-2014 under the

Total Village Plan. As of today, the system of rice intensification technology is implemented in 4.70 lakh acres. Compared to last year, it is 13 per cent more.

In 2013-2014, under the integrated millet cultivation scheme, millets are grown in 2.50 lakh acres in 1,695 villages; this is 11,000 acres more when compared to last year.

My Government has fixed a higher price for paddy procurement and a higher support price for sugar cane.

Storage facilities --- market infrastructure, refrigeration and godown for farmers have been created to keep their produce and sell them when the market is good. Under the Fallow Land Development Scheme, 1.13 lakh acres have been turned into cultivable land. By erecting farm ponds, percolation ponds and check dams, irrigation facilities are provided. For micro irrigation, 100 per cent subsidy is given to small and micro farmers and 75 per cent for other farmers. For purchase of agro-machineries and implements, Rs. 141.67 crore subsidy was given to farmers.

Above all these, I wish to inform at this moment that it is the AIADMK Government headed by me which got the final order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal published in the Central Government gazette.

Priority to Animal Husbandry, Fisheries

My Government is according priority to the primary sectors of Animal Husbandry and Fisheries. Permission was granted for new buildings to 643 veterinary dispensaries; 882 buildings have been renovated; 485 veterinary branch stations have been upgraded as rural veterinary dispensaries. Fifty new branch stations and 20 dispensaries have been set up; 798 veterinary doctors have been appointed, as also 289 veterinary inspectors.

A poultry development scheme is being implemented. With Government assistance 1,214 poultry farms have been set up. Tenders have been floated for setting up Fish Processing Parks at 2 places. Harbours are being located at 4 places. At 11 places, fish landing floors are being set up. A Fisheries university has been started at Nagapattinam. To encourage deep sea fishing, a scheme is being implemented to convert conventional boats into ones fit for tuna fishing. For this 149 boats were distributed at a cost of Rs. 3.5 crore. A total

of 3,848 boats have been mechanised. Diesel and kerosene are being given to fishermen at subsidised rates.

Fillip to Industrial growth

Hon'ble Speaker,

In the industrial sector, Tamil Nadu is in the forefront among the big States in India. To achieve excellent growth in this sector 'Vision 2023' has been released. This document aims at raising the share of the industries whose contribution to the Gross Domestic Product of the State is 17 per cent, to 22 per cent and has fixed it as the target. Steps are afoot to achieve this target.

After I took over the reins of the administration in May 2011, till date Memoranda of Understanding have been entered into with 17 Indian and multi-national companies for an investment of Rs. 26,625 crore in the State that will provide direct and indirect employment to 1.46 lakh persons. Up to now, Rs. 10,660 crore has been invested and 10,022 persons directly employed. Indirect employment opportunities have been created for several thousands more. Besides, 21 companies are to invest Rs. 3,108.88 crore in the State through the Guidance Bureau of the Tamil Nadu Government.

The Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO) has set up a commerce support centre at Chennai to facilitate Japanese companies to invest in Tamil Nadu. After my Government assumed responsibility, JETRO facilitated 18 Japanese major industries to set up their units in Tamil Nadu with an investment of Rs. 5,900 crore (970 million US dollars) with the support of the State Government and the Industrial Guidance and Export Promotion Bureau. Besides, more than 300 Jaapanese companies are in Tamil Nadu. Through these, we have achieved the honour of being the foremost State attracting Japanese investment.

I have announced several concessions with a view to setting up industrial parks in the southern districts of Ramanathapuram, Pudukkottai, Dindigul, Theni, Virudhunagar, Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli and Kanniyakumari. Land allotment through SIPCOT with 50 per cent subsidy, 100 per cent exemption from stamp duty for land lease registration, capital subsidy doubled from 1.5 times, creating infrastructure facilities, reduction of minimum investment of Rs. 50 crore to Rs. 10 crore for getting concessions in respect of value added tax and such other concessions will be available to those who came forward to start industries in these areas. Work on this in now in full swing.

Tamil Nadu will soon become the foremost State in India on account of such measures by my Government.

Hon'ble Speaker,

Opposition parties, DMK, particularly DMK leader Thiru. Karunanidhi and Hon'ble Member Thiru. M.K. Stalin are indulging in propaganda and are claiming, contrary to the truth, that there is no industrial growth in Tamil Nadu now, and that more industrial investments flowed in during the earlier minority DMK rule and because of that the problem of power cut came to the fore.

In his interview to the 'Times of India', Hon'ble Member Thiru. M.K. Stalin had stated that in the previous minority DMK rule 51 indigenous and foreign companies invested Rs. 62,340 crore and created 2.35 lakh job opportunities. DMK President Thiru. M. Karunanidhi too had issued a statement that industries grew in Tamil Nadu during DMK rule. I feel it is my duty to explain the true state of affairs.

The amount said to have been invested by 54 industries through memoranda of understanding and Government orders in the previous minority DMK rule is Rs. 66,664 crore. Of these industries, 12 with an investment of Rs. 15,982 crore did not materialise at all. For example, Tata Steel which entered into an agreement to invest Rs. 2,500 crore did not invest even a single rupee. Likewise, the Indian Oil Corporation which was to invest Rs. 4,320 crore and even obtained a Government order, the Signet Solar company which signed an MoU for investing Rs. 2,000 crore and 'Moser Baer Infrastructure and Developers India Ltd' which was to invest Rs. 2,000 crore neither started any industries, nor invested even a single rupee. The investment by the remaining companies till date is only Rs. 33,336.28 crore. This includes those investments made after May, 2011. Hence, the claim that there was Rs. 62,000 crore investment by industries in the earlier minority DMK rule is totally contrary to truth.

In the last two-and-a-half years after my Government came into being, the total investment in Tamil Nadu, now embarked upon through MoUs and Single Window clearance is Rs. 29,558 crore. Land allotment and grant of permission have been taken up and so far Rs. 10,660 crore has been invested. As new investments, 16 establishments have expressed a desire to invest Rs. 42,400 crore. These will be finalised in a month or two and will materalise.

Statistics show who ticks

Statistics on the number of industries will reveal that more industries have been set up in the State now. As per the figures released by the Central Statistical Organisation and as Thiru. M. Karunanidhi mentioned, the number of industries in 2008-2009 was 26,122. At the end of March 2013, the number was 40,352. Hence, it is a fact that only in my regime now, the number of industries and employment opportunities have increased.

One important yardstick to measure the growth of industries is the statistics about employees. The number of employees in the State has increased considerably after my Government assumed responsibility. As per the statistics of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation under the control of the

Central Government, the number of registered employees as on 31.3.2006 was 55.10 lakh. The number of registered employees as on 31.3.2011 was 84,21,904. That is, the additional number of employees registered with EPF in the 5 years of the previous minority DMK rule was only 29.11 lakh. This figure rose to 1,60,61,058 as on 31.12.2013. That is, in the two-and-a-half years of my rule 76.39 lakh new job opportunities have been created. What more proof is needed for Tamil Nadu's industrial growth? Besides, job opportunities not covered by EPF, have also been created. But no organisation collects that data.

In his statement, the DMK leader Thiru. Karunanidhi has cited the appreciation of Wall Street Journal in its issue dated July 8, 2010, that Tamil Nadu was issuing clearance from more than a dozen Government departments under the single window scheme at the same place. The Tamil Nadu Industrial Guidance and Export Promotion Bureau is the nodal agency for the operation of the single window scheme. And this agency was started by my Government in 1992. Hence this appreciation is for me alone.

In his statement, the former Chief Minister Thiru. Karunanidhi has stated that Tamil Nadu was in the third place in industrial growth according to the quarterly report of the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) for the period October-December 2010.

The same CMIE, in its quarterly report ending December 2013, has said the proposed industrial investment in June 2011 in Tamil Nadu was Rs. 806376.90 crore and it rose to Rs. 945337.40 crore in December 2013. Also, that report mentioned that Tamil Nadu's share in the total investment proposed to be made in India in June 2011 was 6.1 per cent and it rose to 6.5 per cent in December 2013.

The CMIE report also mentioned that the total investment proposed to be made in India between June 2011 and December 2013 rose by 9.76 per cent; as for Tamil Nadu this investment was 17.23 per cent and of the 17,474 proposals to be implemented in India, 1,538 schemes are to be started in Tamil Nadu.

This Government gives greater importance to public sector undertakings as they form the basis for industrial growth. Due to their excellent management, the public sector undertakings functioning under the Industries Department have earned a total revenue of Rs. 1521.26 crore in 2012-2013. Their revenue was only Rs. 1,084.48 crore in 2010-2011. Through SIPCOT, 2,326 acres of land have been allotted to 300 industries in its Industrial Estates in the last 2 ½ years. Through these companies, 42,500 job opportunities have been created. The total investment by these units is Rs. 9,700 crore.

Several other new ventures have also been undertaken by this department in the last 2 ½ years.

The Tamil Nadu Newsprint Ltd has established a cement factory with a production capacity 600 tons a day with an investment of Rs. 100 crore. This is the first cement factory to have been started by a paper factory in India. Also, the foundation has been laid for a new paper manufacturing unit at Mondipatti village in the backward area of Manapparai in Tiruchirapalli District with an investment of Rs. 1,500 crore, the highest by any public sector company. Production in this unit will commence in December 2015.

The modernisation of Ariyalur cement factory has been under examination for several years. The project consultant's report for a Rs. 542 crore modernisation programme has been accepted and the Project Investment Committee has permitted its implementation. Work in this regard will commence shortly.

Hence no one can deny that Tamil Nadu has achieved manifold growth in new industrial investment, creation of new job opportunities and in the performance of its public sector undertakings.

DMK's silence over Katchativu ceding

Hon'ble Speaker,

Next, I wish to refer to the fishermen's issue.

The root cause for the present problem of Tamil Nadu Fishermen is Katchativu. This island and its surrounding areas belonged to India. The Central Government ceded this territory to Sri Lanka under the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement signed in 1974 when Thiru. Karunanidhi was Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

The Central Government had held consultations twice with the then Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Thiru. Karunanidhi before ceding Katchativu to Sri Lanka. After discerning the mind of the Central Government, Thiru. Karunanidhi could have drawn the attention of the people by launching a country-wide agitation. He did not do that. When the Central Government tried to cede Berubari region in West Bengal to East Pakistan earlier to 1960, a case was filed in the Supreme Court and the attempt was thwarted. In a similar fashion, the Central Government's attempt to cede Katchativu could have been prevented. But Thiru. Karunanidhi did not do even that. The then Jan Sangh leader Thiru. Vajpayee declared at that time that he was going to move the Court over Tmt. Indira Gandhi's ceding of Katchativu to Sri Lanka. When journalists drew his attention to this on 29.06.1974, Thiru. Karunanidhi replied: "I don't want to express my view on it". That is, Thiru. Karunanidhi who had a foreknowledge of the Central Government's move to cede Katchativu to Sri Lanka in 1974, did not show any great resistance to it; he did not launch any great agitation against the Central Government to create awareness among the people; he did not move the Supreme court; for that matter he did not even support Thiru. Vajpayee's statement. In brief, Thiru. Karunanidhi did not do anything except passing a resolution in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly in an obedient and passive way.

When I became the Chief Minister in 1991, I proposed several solutions to this Katchativu issue which had became the life breath of Tamil Nadu fishermen. When none of them worked with the Central Government, I filed a case in the Supreme Court in 2008 in my capacity as the general secretary of the All India Anna DMK with a view to finding a permanent solution for this issue. In my petition, I had pleaded for a direction that the 1974 and 1976 Indo-Sri Lanka Agreements were not as per law. I had included the Tamil Nadu Government as a respondent along with

the Central Government. But, the then Chief Minister did not file any petition favourable to Tamil Nadu in the Supreme Court. On the contrary he decided: “After the Central Government files its counter affidavit to be filed on behalf of State Government.”

The Congress-led Central Government that was propped up by the DMK, filed a counter affidavit averring that the 1974 and 1976 Indo-Sri Lanka Agreements ceding Katchativu did not need Parliament’s ratification, that Katchativu was not a part of Indian territory and sought the dismissal of my petition.

In this situation, a private party filed a public interest litigation in the Madras High Court in 2013. In its counter, the Central Government stated: “As per the 1974 and 1976 agreements, Indian fishermen should fish within Indian territorial waters; they should not cross the maritime boundary and exploit the neighbouring country’s sea wealth”. Further, it said, as per the 1974 and 1976 agreements, Indian fishermen enjoy no rights to fish in Sri Lankan waters. As far as India is concerned the counter further states, ‘The Indo-Sri Lanka maritime boundary and rights over Katchativu are all closed subjects’. To this Central Government which was against the interest of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Karunanidhi lent support, lends support and will continue to lend support.

Given this background, it is ridiculous that Thiru. Karunanidhi takes pride after filing a case very recently in the Supreme Court regarding Katchativu. It is like closing the stable after the horse has bolted.

After I took over the reins of administration for a third time, I passed a resolution in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly to enable the Revenue Department of the Tamil Nadu Government to be impleaded as a party in the case I have filed. The Department has now become a party in the case.

Ceding Katchativu and surrounding areas to Sri Lanka is the reason for harassment and attacks that the Tamil Nadu fishermen are subjected to by the Sri Lankan Navy constantly. In the last two years and nine months, 1,131 Tamil Nadu fishermen were imprisoned by the Sri Lankan Navy on the charge of crossing the maritime boundary. They all have been released due to my consistent efforts and actions through diplomatic channels.

In these circumstances, representatives of fisherman societies met me and requested that an oppurtunity be provided to them to hold talks with Sri Lanka fisherman. Acceding to their request, I arranged a meeting between the representatives of the fisherman societies of the two countries. To create a conducive atmosphere for the talks, a request was made to the Central Government that the Tamil Nadu fisherman languishing in Sri Lanka jails be released as also their boats . The Central Government accepted the request and urged that Sri Lanka fisherman lodged in Tamil Nadu prisons be released. As a result, 295 Tamil Nadu fisherman, arrrested on charges of crossing the maritime boundary, were released. Their belongings too were returned. Likewise, Sri Lanka fisherman too were released from Tamil Nadu prisons.

In this conducive atmosphere, the talks took place on 27.1.2014.

As pair trawling and purse seine fishing are banned by several states in India including Tamil Nadu and by many countries globally, it was decided at the meeting to strictly implement this prohibition and act against those who violate it.

Representatives of Sri Lankan fisherman requested that fishing in Sri Lankan waters

with trawlers and prohibited nets by Sri Lanka and Tamil Nadu be halted for 30 days from February 10, 2014. The request is for gaining the confidence of the fisherman of the North Province of Sri Lanka, place before them the demands of the Tamil Nadu fisherman with the good intention of carrying the bilateral talks forward. The Tamil Nadu fisherman acceded to this request.

Fisherman of both the countries agreed that vessels with banned gear should not be involved in Sri Lanka shoreline fishing till the above stated one month ban comes into effect, since use of such boats damages the nets of Sri Lankan fisherman.

Representatives of Sri Lankan fisherman invited Tamil Nadu fisherman to Sri Lanka for the next round of talks. This was accepted. At these talks, conducive decisions will be taken.

Fishermen of both the countries unanimously requested for the release of fishermen imprisoned in Sri Lanka and India on a mutual basis.

An agreement has emerged in these talks. This will not impede in any way the case pending in the Supreme court. It is a matter of concern that even after these talks, the Sri Lankan Navy has imprisoned Indian fishermen.

Regime change to scene change

Hon'ble Speaker,

Hon'ble Members referred to the Sri Lankan Tamils issue. As far as we are concerned, we are firm that in the civil war in Sri Lanka, those who violated the international norms on war should be declared as war criminals, those who committed genocide should be punished; till then, an economic blockade should be imposed on Sri Lanka; action on Tamil Eelam should be on the basis of a referendum among the Tamils in Sri Lanka and the Sri Lanka Tamil Diaspora abroad; India should boycott all meetings taking place in Sri Lanka; no Sri Lankan soldier should be given military training in India; and India should not participate in sports events with Sri Lanka. Resolutions were passed on different occasions about this. The Central Government has not acted on any of these resolutions till date. The DMK, which was supporting the Central Government then was also silent. This House passed a resolution that no one should participate in the Commonwealth conference on behalf of India. Even after that, the Central Government was determined to depute the Minister of Foreign Affairs to the conference. Learning of this, as a last attempt, this House met at a special session, two days before the conference and passed a resolution that no one should represent India at the conference. Ignoring this resolution and the sentiments of the Tamils, the Foreign Affairs Minister participated in the Commonwealth conference. This act of the Central Government hurt deeply. We strongly condemn it.

News has emanated that four countries are going to move a resolution at the UN Human Rights Council meeting in March this year against Sri Lanka. As far as we are concerned, India should move a resolution on its own against Sri Lanka for punishing those who committed genocide, mobilise support of other countries and get the resolution passed. But the present Congress coalition Government will certainly not do this.

Lok Sabha elections are to take place shortly. Thereafter there will be a change of regime at the Centre. Then there will be a change of scene too. The AIADMK will be in a position to determine the Central Government's policies. Then, I say now, steps will be taken to move a resolution against Sri Lanka in the UNHRC and get it passed.

Thiru. Karunanidhi's bluff called on law and order

Hon'ble Speaker,

The opposition parties are levelling certain charges about the law and order situation in Tamil Nadu. A consistent propaganda, contrary to truth, is being conducted by the DMK that law and order is not maintained properly and that crimes have increased. I want to offer my explanation about this to this House.

In the earlier minority DMK rule, a newspaper office in Madurai was set on fire. Those gruesome acts were telecast. What action was taken? All the accused were acquitted. Is this the way to establish law and justice? In the Madras Law College complex, two groups clashed. Who tied the hands of the police who should have prevented it? Is this testimony to the maintenance of law? At a function in the campus of the Madras High court, a group of rowdies attacked advocates before the eyes of the Chief Justice of India, Judges of the Supreme Court, the Chief Justice of the Madras High court, Judges of the High court, Chief Minister and the Director General of Police. No action was taken on the perpetrators of the crime. Is this called rule of law? One can reel out such charges endlessly. These are not mere accusations. True incidents! In brief, instead of the rule of law, it was a rule of anti-social elements.

If the DMK President Thiru. Karunanidhi acted against the law while in office, he continues to do so even while out of office.

A person lodged a complaint with the police under the Prevention of Atrocities (against SC/STs) Act against 5 DMK men including the Madurai Urban district DMK Secretary. The police is to act on the complaint after ascertaining the truth about it.

But Thiru. Karunanidhi himself has acted on it! In his media interview on 28.01.2014, he has raised the question: " How will it be a crime on my part as President of the party, to enquire and admonish a person who has lodged a written complaint to the police to take action against the Madurai District party secretary Moorthy under the P.C.R Act?'' That is, he has stated that it is a crime to lodge a police complaint against a person who has acted illegally. If this is his behaviour while not in office, I leave it to your imagination how he would have maintained the law and order while he ruled the State.

There is no need for you to know from me who is responsible for the Madurai newspaper arson incident and the murder of Tha. Kirutinan. All the accused in these two cases have been acquitted giving the impression these two incidents took place on their own accord!

Now, Thiru. Karunanidhi has shared with the media what Thiru. Alagiri, M.P. had told him about the longevity of his younger son, Hon'ble member Thiru. M.K. Stalin. He has asked Thiru. T.R. Balu to write a letter to the Prime Minister also.

Accordingly, Thiru. Balu has written a letter on 27.01.2014. As per media reports, he has sought in that letter Z plus security for Thiru. M. K. Stalin on the ground of threats from LTTE, religious fundamentalists and political opponents. The threat from LTTE is non-existent in the context of the elimination of not only LTTE cadres but also several thousand Sri Lankan Tamils in the genocide that took place there. Without mentioning any particular name, threat from religious fundamentalists is cited. This is also an imaginary threat. Political opponents have also not been mentioned. Taking into consideration the timing of the letter and the confusion prevailing in the family of Thiru. Karunanidhi, the threat, it has been indirectly conveyed, is from Thiru. M.K. Alagiri. When a threat is perceived to his younger son from his elder son, Thiru. Karunanidhi dashes out a letter to the Prime Minister through an emissary. But what stand did he take in the Madurai newspaper office arson and Tha. Kirutinan cases? It is laughable for the DMK men to speak about law and order when they act under the leadership of Thiru. Karunanidhi who applies different norms of justice, one for himself, another for his family and a third one for others!

As far as we are concerned, we are very earnest in maintaining the rule of Law. Our motto is that all are equal before the Law.

The state of 'rule of anti-social elements' has been changed and 'rule of Law' has been established after AIADMK came to power.

The Police has been given a free hand to take action as per law without fear of anyone or anything. Due to this, law and order is maintained excellently in Tamil Nadu. Severe action is taken against those indulging in crimes like theft, dacoity, kidnapping, and smuggling.

The number of murders rose to 1,715 in the earlier DMK rule in 2010 from 1,366 in my earlier regime in 2005. Likewise murder for gain also rose from 74 to 153.

Gang robberies which were 73 in 2005 rose to 85 in 2010 in the earlier minority DMK rule, robberies from 437 to 1,817 and break-ins from 3,738 to 4,715.

In brief, in the 5-year minority DMK rule, murder cases rose by 25.5 per cent, murders for gain by 106.75 per cent, gang robberies by 16.44 per cent, robberies by 315.8 per cent and break-ins by 26 per cent.

As for murders in the earlier DMK rule, they increased by 5.11 per cent per year. After I assumed office, the number of murders was 1,747 in 2011, 1,806 in 2012 and 1,806 in 2013. When compared to the increase percentage in DMK rule, in the last two years, the increase has came down by 3.42 percent. This is the fact.

Murder for gain is the worst form of murder. The number of such murders in 2010 in DMK period was 153. It came down to 123 in 2011. In 2013 it came down to 121. Compared with 2011, murder for gain has come down by 1.63 per cent. The percentage of these cases in these two years has come down by 0.81 percent per year. In contrast, during DMK rule murder for gain on an average rose by 21.35 per cent per year.

Gang robberies came down to 97 in 2012 from 101 in 2011 and they came down further to 83 in 2013. Compared with 2011, they came down by 17.82 per cent in 2013. In these two years, on an average the reduction was 8.91 per cent. But in the minority DMK rule, gang robberies rose by 3.29 per cent per year on an average.

As for robberies, the number of cases was 14,583 in 2010 and they gradually came down to 13,924 in 2011, 11,996 in 2012 and 11,950 in 2013. A comparison between the years 2011 and 2013 shows a decline of 14.18 per cent. The decline works into 7.09 per year.

The number of property related cases registered was 21,353 in 2010. This came down to 21,062 in 2011, and 18,585 in 2012. But 19,465 cases were registered in 2013. Compared with the cases in 2010 in the earlier minority DMK rule, they have come down by 1,888 in 2013. This shows the total number of property related cases is declining due to the crime prevention measures taken by the police.

According to the report of the National Crime Records Bureau, the number of crimes filed in Tamil Nadu was less when compared with other states. For example, in 2012, the number of murder cases filed in Uttar Pradesh was 4,966, in Bihar 3,566, in Andhra 2,717, in Maharashtra 2,712, in Madhya Pradesh 2,373 and in West Bengal 2,252. The number of murder cases in Tamil Nadu was only 1,806.

Crime percentage figures are normally used when comparisons are made about crime incidents. This is an index of the crimes that have taken place for every one lakh population. The crime percentage regarding property related cases in Tamil Nadu in 2012 was 27.16. This is 9.62 points less when compared with the national average of 36.78. But this crime percentage is 91.6 in Haryana, 62.07 in Maharashtra, 47.98 in Madhya Pradesh, 45.10 in Karnataka, 47.82 in Andhra Pradesh, 41.64 in Rajasthan, 37.16 in Gujarat and 36.81 in Odisha.

Apart from arresting the culprits in murder and dacoity cases through efficient investigation, the police retrieve the lost properties and put habitual offenders under various preventive detention Acts, 2,158 persons were held in 2012 and this number went up to 3,433 in 2013.

In 2012, of the property related cases, 13,275 cases were successfully detected, culprits arrested and lost properties to the tune of Rs.80.19 crore were retrieved. In 2013, 73 per cent of property related cases were solved, culprits arrested and property worth Rs.146.59 crore retrieved.

Besides arresting the culprits in property related cases and retrieving the lost property, the police took up effectively crime prevention steps to prevent culprits coming out in bail and engaging in offences.

On intelligence furnished by the state intelligence department about persons likely to engage in criminal acts and disrupt law and order, district police make arrests of criminals and also take up precautionary action.

Incidence of crime continues to rise every year an account of population increase, developing economy, development in information and technology, changing social environment and urbanisation. As far as our State is concerned, incidents of crime is coming down an account of the strict action taken by the police.

Crime against women, particularly dowry murders, sexual assaults, molestation and such other important crimes are coming down in the State. Other crimes are also under control. For example, the number of dowry murders that was 165 in 2010 during the DMK regime, came down to 152 in 2011, 110 in 2012 and in 2013, 118 cases alone were filed. Compared to the 2010 figures, dowry murders have come down by 28.48 per cent in 2013.

As for sexual assaults, in 2010, 638 cases were filed and they gradually come down to 464 in 2011, 382 in 2012 and 313 in 2013.

Comparing the figures for 2010 and 2013, the incidence has come down by 51 per cent.

In 2010, during the DMK rule, 1,405 molestation cases were filed.

In 2013 only 1,271 such cases were filed. A comparison of the data for these two years reveals that molestation cases have come down by 9.53 per cent.

As per the data given by the National Crime Records Bureau, in 2012 the number of crimes against women in West Bengal was 30,942. In Andhra Pradesh, this was 28,272, Uttar Pradesh 23,569, Rajasthan 21,106, Madhya Pradesh 16,832 Maharashtra 16,353, Assam 13,544, Odisha 11,988, Bihar 11,229, Kerala 10,930, Karnataka 10,366 and in Gujarat 9,561. But in Tamil Nadu it was only 7,192. Compared to other States, Tamil Nadu has fared better.

As for Chennai Metropolitan area, crimes have come down by 30 per cent when compared to 2010. In that year, the number of crimes that took place was 3,172. The number came down to 2,232 in 2013.

Murder for gain has come down to 15 in 2013 from 20 in 2010.

Dacoity has also come down, the figures for the respective years being 81 and 173.

House burglary was 743 in 2010 and it was only 467 in 2013.

Thefts have come down from 1,122 in 2010 to 658 in 2013.

Crimes resulting in severe injuries come down to 48 in 2013 from 95 in 2010.

In 2010, the number of kidnapping was 77. In 2013, it was 59 only.

Likewise, attempt to murder cases numbered 294 in 2010. In 2013, the number fell to 203.

While the percentage of crime against women was 68.56 in New Delhi, 55.76 in Bangalore, 50.45 in Hyderabad, and 30.52 in Kolkatta, it remained just at 19.32 in Chennai.

Hence, the opposition’s propaganda that crimes have increased in Tamil Nadu is totally contrary to facts.

Hon’ble Speaker Sir,

In his speech, Hon’ble Member Thiru. S. Gunasekaran said that of the 1,400 studying in the diploma course in Government Nurses Training Schools, only 600 get the stipend and requested that others too should be given the stipend.

For many years, stipend is being given to all students studying in the Government Nurses Training Schools. However, the number of students eligible for the stipend was not increased commensurate to the increase effected in admissions.

Now, every year 2000 students are admitted in the diploma course in the 23 Government nurses Schools.

Acceding to the request of the Hon'ble Member Thiru. S. Gunasekaran, I announce that from the coming academic year, stipend will be given to all students in these schools. On account of this, Government will incur an additional expenditure of Rs. 3.41 crore.

Similarly, Hon'ble Member Thiru. S. Gunasekaran pleaded for the allotment of funds to Sivagangai Municipality for carrying out special programmes in connection with the Golden Jubilee of the Municipality that commences from April 1. Accepting this request, I am happy to announce that Rs.25 crore will be allotted for taking up some new works in the Golden Jubilee year.

Hon'ble Member Thiru. S. Gunasekaran also requested assistance from the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund to the families of 5 girl students who drowned in a tank on 24.11.2013 in Virudhunagar District. This request also is conceded. The families of these students will be given to Rs. one lakh each.

Hon'ble Member Thiru. J.J. Prince, in his speech said that a 7th standard girl student fell down from the bus while travelling in the Marthandam- Pattamadai bus on route no. 86 on 23.1.2014 and requested assistance from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. This request is also accepted. Rs. one lakh will be disbursed to the family of the student from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

Thiru J. J. Prince requested that Sivarathri be declared a local holiday in Kanniyakumari District. The 'run' by devotees to 12 Siva temples on Sivarathri Day is a grand event. For such a district, a local holiday will be declared on Sivarathri Day.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Hon'ble Member Thiru. Jawahirullah, in his speech charged that reservation rules were not followed in appointments in the Multi-Speciality Hospital.

For the announced 83 doctors posts in this Multi-High Speciality Treatment Hospital, so far 72 doctors have been selected. Of them, 55 were already serving in Government Hospitals. They have been appointed on transfer. When recruited for Government service, they were appointed as per reservation rules.

For the remaining 28 posts, doctors have been selected for 17 posts. Among them, 7 are experienced doctors retired after serving Government Hospitals. Ten are private doctors selected on merit. Among these 17 doctors, 9 belong to Backward Classes, 4 to most Backward Classes, 3 to Adi Dravidars and one belongs to other communities.

As for the other 11 posts, no suitable applicants are available. These posts will be filled up through transfers from Government Hospitals.

Hence the charge that reservation rules were not observed in the posting in Multi High Speciality Treatment Hospital is not correct.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Some members made the request that in the Teachers Eligibility Test, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and Most Backward Classes should be given concessions in marks.

The Central Government passed the Children's Right for Free and Compulsory

Education Act in 2009. As per this statute, teachers appointed to schools should have passed the Teachers Eligibility Test conducted by a Government approved institution. On the basis of this Act, the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) issued a notification making Teachers Eligibility Test (TET) compulsory for teachers of standards 1 to 8.

As per the notification of the National Council for Teacher Education, middle level teachers handling classes 1 to five should have scored a minimum 45 per cent in higher secondary and completed the two year diploma course as per the NCTE Regulatory Rules 2000. If the diploma course was completed before 2000 Regulatory Rules implementation, a minimum of 50 per cent should have been scored in the higher secondary examination.

As for graduate teachers handling 6th to 8th, according to NCTE Regulatory Rules they should have cleared one year B.Ed degree course and should have scored 45 per cent in degree examinations. If the B.Ed degree was obtained before 2002, they should have scored 50 per cent in degree examination.

Later, the NCTE in its letter dated 1.4.2011 said that concessions up to 5 per cent can be shown in the minimum marks stipulated in higher secondary and degree examinations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, according to the reservation policy followed in each state.

As per this concession, those who completed diploma course after 2002 should have scored 40 per cent in higher secondary examination, and those who completed prior to 2002, 45 per cent.

But in Tamil Nadu those who have scored 35 per cent in higher secondary examination are allowed to sit for TET examinations. Hence greater concession is shown in Tamil Nadu.

Likewise, those who completed B.Ed before 2002 should have obtained 45 per cent in degree examinations; prior to 2002, they should have scored 50 per cent. As Universities in Tamil Nadu issue degree even for a score 40 per cent marks, Tamil Nadu is giving more concession than what the Central Government has announced.

For a pass in TET, 60 per cent marks have been prescribed by the NCTE. It has also stated that States can examine giving relaxation in marks to SC/ST, BC and the differently abled as per the reservation policy followed by them. A pass in TET does not determine reservation. Reservation rules are observed while appointing teachers. In this context, I wish to state that 69 per cent reservation is fully followed in teacher appointment.

However, in deference to the views expressed in this House, I wish to state that a relaxation of 5 per cent in marks will be shown to SC/ST, BC, BC (Muslims), MBC, De-notified class and the differently-abled even though a 60 per cent mark is stipulated for clearing the Teachers Eligibility Test.

This concession is applicable to the test conducted by the Teacher Recruitment Board in August 2013.

I have given my clarifications to the Hon'ble Members who have participated in the debate on the motion of thanks to the Governor for his address and offered their views, suggestions and advice.

I request all sections to extend their co-operation to my efforts to make Tamil Nadu the foremost State in India.

I thank all those who have participated in the debate and who have given constructive suggestions.

Vanakkam.

Chief Minister inspires at finale of all - India Commando meet

'I strive to raise entire police force to level of commandos'

SPEECH DELIVERED BY SELVI J JAYALALITHAA, HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER OF TAMIL NADU ON THE VALEDICTORY FUNCTION OF THE 4th ALL INDIA POLICE COMMANDO COMPETITION HELD ON 27.1.2014 AT THE JAWAHARLAL NEHRU INDOOR STADIUM, CHENNAI

Hon'ble Ministers of the Government of Tamil Nadu,

Members of the Legislative Assembly,

Mrs. Sheela Balakrishnan,
Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu,

Mr. Apurva Varma, Principal Secretary, Home Department, Government of Tamil Nadu.

Mr. K. Ramanujam, Director General of Police, Tamil Nadu,

Mr. Malay Kumar Sinha, Additional Director, Intelligence Bureau, representing the Chairman, Central Co-ordination Committee of the All India Police Duty Meet,

Thiru S.George, Commissioner of Police, Chennai,

Thiru Sanjay Arora, Additional Director General of Police – Operations,

Officers and Men and Women of the Police Force,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

"It gives me great pleasure to be here today at the valedictory function of the 4th All India

Police Commando Competition for the year 2013, to felicitate the winners and to give away the awards and encourage those who have not won. The atmosphere here is electric and the exhilaration is palpable and infectious. I am reminded of the words of Swami Vivekananda - I quote: “My countrymen should have muscles of iron, nerves of steel and a mind made of such stuff of which thunder bolts are made” - Unquote. The sight of young men and women powered by the drive to serve their Country and stalking out challenges and forging the will to dare, makes our spirits soar.

This arena brings people from different cultural backgrounds together. Sports essentially denote participation and inclusion. Sports activities bring individuals and organisations together, highlighting commonalities and bridging cultural and ethnic divides. The easy and inherent characteristic of sports of bringing people together, salvaging their strength, reinforcing their resolve to succeed and chartering a unique course for those who are involved makes it a powerful weapon. Sports provide a forum to hone skills like discipline, confidence and leadership and strengthen core principles like acceptance, co-operation and respect. Sports expound the value of effort and teach the participants how to manage victory as well as defeat. These fundamental elements of sports make them a viable and practical tool to attain the goal of national development. Many of the core values inherent in sports are compatible with the principles necessary for development and peace, such as fair play, co-operation, sharing and a healthy respect for opponents. The life skills learned through sports help empower individuals and enhance psycho-social well-being like increased resilience, self-esteem and connection with others.

Events like this competition inculcate a sense of oneness among you and fire the competitiveness in you to excel in whatever you do. Sport is a great unifying force and the Police need continuous reassessment and reassurance in terms of their mental and physical fitness. These events will help to test

their physical agility, mental resilience and serve to enhance these traits which are crucial to policing and indicate their relative levels, urging further accomplishment.

The All India Police Sports Control Board and the Co-ordination Committee of the All India Police Duty Meet, sponsor the conduct of seventeen professional and sports competitions for Police Forces across the country every year, each event being hosted by a different Police Force. These competitions include the Police Duty Meet, Shooting and Commando championships which test skills relating to Police functioning in addition to general events like athletics, aquatics, equestrian sports and various individual and team games.

The Police Commando concept is relatively new. The concept of having an elite commando unit as part of a regular Police Force was first established in the United States in 1967, when the Los Angeles Police Department setup a specialised 'unit' or a Special Weapons And Tactics team (SWAT) tasked to respond to critical situations. These men were skilled in tackling special situations involving hostage rescue, counter terrorism, search and rescue, plus a host of other specialized tasks which a regular Police Force is not equipped for. So effective have these units been, that today, almost every Police Force in the world has a SWAT team and their basic roles remain the same.

The All India Police Commando Competition is one of the latest additions to the annual Police Sports calendar. It has been included, considering the importance of counter-terrorism skills in the current scenario where terrorism and extremism are emerging

as serious threats to internal security. In order to upscale our capabilities to deal with and do away with this menace, it is imperative that all States have a force of well-trained and equipped Commando Units. Most States have raised Commando Units and these outfits need to be kept fighting fit by constant training and upgradation of skills and tactics. The developments in terms of upgradation of skills have to be in line with the expectations of the public at large, as the Police are the most visible and much required public service, involved in safeguarding the lives of the people. Most of the Commando Units are comprised personnel better trained, better equipped, well led and more motivated components within their respective Forces. Specific needs dictate special dispensations. However, my endeavour as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has been to raise the level of training, equipping, leadership and motivation of the complete Police Force, rather than to create an odd island of excellence in a sea of mediocrity. Yours is a call to a service that requires extreme commitment and demands excellence at all times. Rest assured that you will always enjoy the utmost public gratitude and deepest respect as you take your professionalism to higher levels in terms of integrity, ethics and discipline.

The honour of organizing the All-India Police Commando Competition for the year 2013 has been assigned to the Tamil Nadu Police. This will be the 4th edition of the competition. I am informed that the previous three competitions were hosted by the Border Security Force, Assam Rifles, and the Rajasthan Police. This year, we have received entries from 23 teams from the major Central Para Military Forces and other State Police Forces. Earlier, the focus was on anti-extremist operations in rural and jungle areas, as the majority of insurgencies were in outlying areas. After the terrorist attack at Mumbai in 2008, an urgent need to develop specialization in fighting in built up and closed areas, has arisen. I have been informed that the format of the competition tests a commando team for endurance, physical and mental strength, co-ordination, firing skills, knowledge of tactics, planning, and capability to operate in compact small teams. A team consisting of 22 personnel is put through a gruelling schedule of fast runs, obstacle courses, reflex shooting, and operations in urban and jungle scenarios. The team has to complete all the events within 4 hours and 45 minutes. This, indeed, is a test of endurance – both physical and mental, and I congratulate the winners and all the teams who have participated in these events for their sheer fortitude, grit and determination.

As this competition also involves participation in simulated urban and jungle operations, it provides an arena to all the Forces to validate their procedures, tactics, techniques and equipment. This, simultaneously,

facilitates Commando Forces to learn from each other and upgrade themselves, both in the use of technology and human resources. Abraham Lincoln once said, "If you give me six hours to chop down a tree, I will spend the first four sharpening my axe." This is exactly what we are expected to do, in forming a highly competent team of committed commandos. Our commandos are the axe. The conduct of more such competitions and skill upgradation are the needs of the hour.

It gives me great satisfaction that the Tamil Nadu Police are hosting the event at the Tamil Nadu Police Academy at Oonamanchery, in Chennai. I have sanctioned 94.75 lakh rupees for this event. New infrastructure, including obstacle courses, system of baffles for the range, and electronically controlled targets, has been created at a cost of 50 lakh rupees. These will be permanent additions to the infrastructure of the Academy, for training in obstacle courses and shooting. I am happy to learn that the Tamil Nadu Police are the first to use an electronically controlled reflex shooting range in the competition. We have always been forerunners in the Country, in the use of specialized techniques and equipment. I believe that the contours of internal security are undergoing rapid and unprecedented changes and we cannot afford to be complacently under-equipped. In all my tenures as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, I have never stinted on welfare measures for the Police, and I have ensured that the Tamil Nadu Police get the best state-of-the-art infrastructure, coupled with the latest equipment, and constant training and orientation to perform. Our Commando Units are exposed to techniques of Unconventional Warfare, including extraction, subversion, sabotage, intelligence activities, evasion and escape, and other activities of covert or clandestine nature. Similarly, combat terrorism activities, including the process of anti-terrorism, counter-terrorism, recovery of hostages or sensitive material from terrorist organisations, attack on terrorist infrastructure, and reduction of vulnerability to terrorism are essentially imparted to these commandos, to counter the myriad forms of terror rearing its ugly head from time to time.

The Tamil Nadu Police, endowed with unfettered professional freedom in my Government, have always risen to the

challenges confronting them, and I am proud of them. The manifestation of sound leadership and best training practices have resulted in producing a highly professional and strongly motivated public safety corps. Martin Luther King once said, and I quote "the ultimate measure of man is not where he stands in moments of comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and discomfort" - Unquote. Just as fire refines a precious metal, so too, challenges will strengthen and chisel you all into even better officers. A solid demonstration of professionalism and deep sense of responsibility in the realm of public safety, was witnessed in the recent arrest of Fakruddin in the operation at Puthur, in which two of his associates were arrested without any loss of life. This is proof beyond doubt that our Commando outfit is one of the best in the country. I have personally congratulated 260 personnel involved in the operation, giving away cash rewards ranging from 1 lakh rupees to 15 lakh rupees, apart from the grant of accelerated promotion to 20 Police personnel.

I have been consistently encouraging and motivating Police personnel to excel in all sporting events. I have enhanced the prize incentives given to Police personnel who win laurels for the State. The prize amounts for winners of gold medals, silver medals and bronze medals in the All India Police Sports events were raised ten-fold to 5 lakh rupees, 3 lakh rupees and 2 lakh rupees respectively. In addition, when the Tamil Nadu team gets the winners' trophy or the runners-up trophy, each member of the team is awarded 50,000 rupees and 30,000 rupees respectively.

The nature of your job entails a great amount of personal sacrifice and hard work. More than the thrill of adventure, financial benefit, better perks, or the prospect of faster promotions, the one common thread that binds you all together is your commitment to defend and protect Society. A Policeman / Policewoman is a peacetime soldier, always at war. I commend your courage, commitment and dedication as you continue to work to make the community safe.Your passion and conviction make your lives better lived. I congratulate all the participating teams and each and every member of the various teams, for the spirit you have displayed in participation. I extol the winning teams, and their members for their excellence in training and motivation and encourage you to continue the winning streak. For those who have not won, nothing is lost. You will return stronger and more determined to conquer the victory stands.

I wish each and every Policeman / Policewoman in these grounds, a long, glorious and rewarding career in the service of the people, and the Nation.

Thank you." ■

Republic Day Function Celebrated with eclat

On behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government, the 65th Republic Day was celebrated on 26.1.2014 near the Mahatma Gandhi Statue on Kamarajar Salai, Marina, Chennai. His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu **Dr. K. Rosaiah** unfurled the National Flag on the occasion in the presence of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa.**

Tamil Nadu Government's 65th Republic Day Function

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** who arrived at the venue of the Republic Day Celebrations offered her Republic Day greetings to the public who had gathered in large numbers on both sides of the road.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** welcomed His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu **Dr. K. Rosaiah** by offering a bouquet to him.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** introduced service Chiefs and Police Higher Officials to the Governor on the occasion.

His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu accepted the guard of honour presented by service personnel, Tamil Nadu Special Police and NCC on the occasion.

Tamil Nadu Government's 65th Republic Day Function

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** presented Anna Medals for Gallantry consisting of a cheque for Rs. One lakh each and a certificate, the Kottai Ameer Communal Harmony Award consisting of a medal, a cheque of Rs.25,000 and a Certificate, the Gandhi Adigal Police Medals carrying a medal and a cheque of Rs.25,000 each, and Special prize on behalf of the Agriculture Department to farmers who produced higher yield through System Rice intensification technique.

In the cultural programmes, School and College students presented folk dances of Tamil Nadu and troops from Gujarat, Manipur and Odissa performed their respective traditional dances.

Chief Minister seeks swift action on latest fishermen arrests

D.O. Letter dated 4.2.2014 addressed by **Selvi J Jayalalithaa**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Dr. Manmohan Singh**, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

"Please recall my two letters written to you on 30.1.2014 and 3.2.2014 indicating two separate incidents of arrest of 57 fishermen from Tamil Nadu and their 11 fishing boats by the repressive Sri Lankan Navy while our fishermen were pursuing their livelihood in their traditional waters of Palk Bay. These incidents have occurred close on the heels of the fishermen level talks in Chennai on 27.1.2014. I had sought a strong diplomatic response from the Government of India to prevent such incidents of apprehension in future. I also requested your personal intervention for the immediate release of these fishermen and their boats.

Even before the ink on the above two letters had dried, in yet another incident the marauding Sri Lankan Navy has apprehended 30 fishermen of

Tamil Nadu who set out for fishing in 8 fishing boats from Rameswaram and Mandapam North Fishing bases of Ramanathapuram District and Arcottuthurai fishing base of Nagapattinam District in the early hours of 4.2.2014 and remanded them till 13.2.2014.

Seven Mechanized Fishing Boats bearing Registration Nos. IND/TN/10/ MM/292, IND/ TN/10/MM/468, IND/TN/10/MM/594, IND/ TN/11/MM/061, IND/ TN/09/MM/009, IND/ TN/06/MFB/643 IND/TN/07/MM/1444 and a traditional motorized craft bearing registration number IND/TN/06/FRPV/1437 which went for fishing on 3.2.2014 from Rameswaram and Mandapam North Fishing bases of Ramanathapuram District and Arcottuthurai fishing base of Nagapattinam District with 30 fishermen have been apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy in the early hours of 4.2.2014 while fishing in their traditional waters of Palk Bay. Subsequently, they have been produced before the District and Magistrate's court, Kayts, Jaffna District, and remanded till 13.2.2014.

As a measure to prevent further arrests and attacks on our innocent fishermen and in an accommodative frame of mind, my Government had facilitated direct talks between the fishermen of Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka.

I have consistently maintained that the failure of the Government of India to come out strongly in defence of the rights and interests of Indian fishermen from Tamil Nadu has emboldened the Sri Lankan authorities to act with impunity against our fishermen. These incidents of apprehension happening after the Fishermen level talks is further fuelling the

tension among the fishermen communities to alarming levels.

I am anguished by the continuing apprehensions of our fishermen which runs contrary to the spirit of goodwill generated in the Fishermen level talks aimed at finding a pragmatic and workable solution for the day to day fishing activities of the fishermen. These continued detentions cast a shadow of doubt on the true intentions of the Sri Lankan authorities including the Sri Lankan Navy.

At this juncture a strong response is required from the Government of India on the issue. There has to be an immediate, firm, diplomatic initiative including intervention at the highest level. The Sri Lankan High Commissioner in New Delhi must be summoned to the Ministry of External Affairs and our strongest protest has to be lodged.

I request you to bestow your personal attention and take up this issue with the Sri Lankan authorities at the highest level without any further delay. Failure to take immediate action will not only derail the initiatives taken to put in place

a conducive working arrangement through the fishermen level talks but would also be disastrous for the livelihood of the fishermen community in Tamil Nadu.

I exhort you to initiate necessary and immediate action to ensure that all the 19 fishing boats and 87 fishermen who were apprehended by the

Sri Lankan Navy in the last one week are released forthwith without prolonged detention."

Dr. MGR - 97th Birth Anniversary

Hon'ble Ministers, the Worshipful Mayor of Chennai, Secretary, Department of Tamil Development and Information, Director of Information and Public Relations and other high officials offered floral tributes to a portrait of former Chief Minister Bharat Ratna Dr. MGR, placed near his statue and paid homage on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government, in connection with his 97th birth anniversary on 17.01.2014.

CHIEF MINISTER CALLS DMK CHIEF'S MOTIVATED BLUFF ON JOB RESERVATION

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** on 12.1.2014 (English Translation)

The credit for establishing social justice when it was challenged and protecting 69 per cent reservation by enacting a legislation in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly and including it in the 9th Schedule of the Constitution through a Constitutional Amendment(76th Amendment) in 1994, goes to the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and me.

It was the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam Government under my leadership which passed a resolution in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly urging 50 per cent reservation for the Backward Classes in jobs in Central Government and in its establishments and in the administration of its educational institutions.

Again, it was my Government which got an endorsement from the State Backward Classes Commission and established social justice when the Supreme Court ordered such a course if the reservation exceeds 50 per cent . Also, it was My Government which issued an order in 2011 dispensing with the concept of creamy layer in reservation.

When I am working so tirelessly to protect social justice, Thiru. Karunanidhi says I am strangling social justice. It is not only ridiculous but also unacceptable.

One is inclined to think that perhaps he is criticising the Government out of frustration and political malice. He opposed the location of a multi–super speciality hospital on the Omandurar Government Estates and induced litigation over it. But it all ended in failure.

Thiru. Karunanidhi takes up any issue only with an eye on electoral gain .Elections are now approaching and at a time when his Eelam Tamil issue has not cut ice with the people he has taken to up "Social Justice" and issued a lengthy statement levelling imaginary charges. The statement gives the impression that Thiru. Karunanidhi has thrown caution to the winds and has poked his nose in a matter without knowing the facts.

In his statement, Thiru. Karunanidhi has said that an advertisement has been issued on behalf of Tamil Nadu Government saying that reservation policy will not be followed in the appointment of doctors and officers in the multi-super speciality hospital to be located on the Omandurar Government Estates on par with AIIMS, with all facilities. I would like to present the facts in this matter.

It has been stated in the advertisement given by Tamil Nadu Government that medical staff will be appointed on contract and re-deployment basis. Reservation is not applicable to the re-deployed since they were originally recruited as Government doctors applying the reservation rule. As for appointment of doctors on contract basis, it will be under rule 11 of the Tamil Nadu State and Subordinate Services Rules. General rules including reservation rules are not applicable for appointment on contract basis.

I wish to point out to Thiru. Karunanidhi that the earlier minority DMK Government did not follow reservation rules while appointing more than 540 doctors and medical staff on contract basis under this rule between 2006 and 2011 in the Health Department. They were hired under programmes of the Tamil Nadu AIDS Control Society, Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme, Tamil Nadu Health System Project and the State Health Society Programme.

In its judgment dated 18.7.2013 in the case 'Faculty Association of AIIMS Vs Government of India', the Supreme Court has stated that it cannot alter its judgment given in the case Indira Sawhney Vs Government of India. That judgment stated it would not be proper to follow the reservation rule for certain posts in multi-super speciality hospitals, as well as engineering and other scientific and technological faculties.

The Central Government has filed a review petition in the Supreme Court against this judgment. It has not yet been taken up for hearing. I would like to inform Thiru. Karunanidhi that steps are being taken to appoint doctors in the Omandurar Super-Speciality Hospital taking into account this judgment of the Supreme Court, existing rules and precedents.

If this judgment of the Supreme Court is to be reversed, only the Central Government should amend the Indian Constitution suitably.

The present Central Government which endeavours to implement common entrance test, which is against reservation policy, certainly will not bring in the necessary amendments to the Constitution.

The DMK was part of the Congress-led Central Coalition Government for 9 1/2 year. Even after walking out of the Central Government, Thiru. Karunanidhi, maintained close contacts with the Congress Party. He made his daughter Kanimozhi a member of the Rajya Sabha for a second term with the help of the Congress. Though he declared the snapping of ties with the Congress in the DMK General Council meeting, his thoughts are still revolving round the Congress Party. The Congress Party too is awaiting the home coming of Thiru. Karunanidhi.

Only Thiru. Karunanidhi, who approached the Congress High Command to serve his own interest, should explain to people why he was silent – whether he had no time to approach

it for arguing for the reservation policy in the interests of the Tamils or had no mind to raise the issue. Or was it out of fear that his daughter would lose the chance of becoming a Rajya Sabha member if he took up the issue with the High command that he kept mum.

I wish to emphasise one other factor to Thiru. Karunanidhi. After I assumed office as Chief Minister for a third time in 2011, I created a Medical Services Recruitment Board, the first of its kind in the whole country for quickly filling up posts of doctors or medical staff that are newly created or fall vacant on account of retirement/resignation.

Through this, 4,361 Doctors were appointed in time scale pay. Other connected posts were also filled up. In recruiting all these personnel, the reservation rule was followed fully. Hence, Thiru. Karunanidhi advising me regarding social justice is like the devil quoting scripture.

In his statement, Thiru. Karunanidhi has waxed eloquent on the salaries of doctors. "Do you know how much is the monthly salary for the post of Director? Two-and-a-half lakh rupees. It is not clear whether the Chief Secretary, why, for that matter even the Chief Minister or Ministers get such a huge salary.. Fourteen persons are to be appointed as senior medical consultants. And their salary is Rs. 1.50 lakh....."

Highly qualified and experienced doctors are surely necessary to man a multi-super speciality hospital. Such doctors get a good salary in private sector hospitals. To make their services available to the poor and the downtrodden, a red carpet is being rolled out to them come to this multi super speciality hospital by offering a high pay. Perhaps Thiru. Karunanidhi has issued the statement with the intention that such facilities should not reach the poor and the down-trodden.

Likewise, Thiru. Karunanidhi has stated that the reservation rule was not followed in the teachers' recruitment also. This is totally contrary to truth. As per the Central Government's order, only those who have cleared the Teacher Eligibility Test can be appointed as teachers. A total of 20,920 teachers were appointed – 18,647 on the basis of the Teacher Eligibility Test Conducted by the Teacher Recruitment Board and 2,273 through competitive tests. Teachers are appointed on the basis of marks scored in the Teacher Eligibility Test, in the B.Ed examination and on their educational qualification. They are not appointed solely on the basis of mark scored in the Eligibility Test. Teacher Eligibility Test is only for the recruitment to the post of school teachers and this has been made mandatory by the Central Government as 'SLET' and 'NET' for recruitment to the post of college teachers. On this basis alone teachers' posts have been filled up. I wish to inform Thiru. Karunanidhi categorically that the 69 per cent reservation rule was followed fully in this recruitment of teachers.

I wish to inform Thiru. Karunanidhi that steps will be taken to amend the Indian Constitution to reverse the orders of the Supreme Court when the situation develops after May 2014 in which the policies of the All India Anna DMK party will be implemented by the Central Government.

In sum, the wise Tamil people will easily understand that Thiru. Karunanidhi's statement is all lies.

Chief Minister's helping hand to Andaman boat capsize victims

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** on 26.1.2014
(English Translation)

I was extremely sad and highly distressed when I heard the news that 28 of the 45 passengers of a private launch died when it capsized this evening near Bay Island in Port Blair, Andaman Union Territory and that of the total number of passengers, 33 belonged to Kancheepuram District.

I immediately instructed the Chief Secretary to collect all the details about the passengers from Tamil Nadu who had been on that boat and to take immediate steps to render necessary help to them.

On my directions, the Chief Secretary talked to her counterpart in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar islands. The Island Administration was yet to get details about the number of Tamil Nadu tourists who had died and about how many had been rescued.

I, then, immediately despatched the Commissioner of Revenue Administration, Tamil Nadu Government and the Secretary of the Revenue Department to Port Blair and directed them to take steps to provide adequate treatment to the rescued and to immediately send those who needed higher treatment, by air to Chennai, at Government expense.

I have also ordered that the bodies of the deceased be brought to Chennai and handed over to their families in Kancheepuram District at Government expense.

A special telecommunication assistance phone no. 1070 – has been installed at the Office of the Revenue Administration Commissioner to facilitate relatives of those involved in this tragic accident to get details about their relatives.

I convey my deep condolences and sympathies to the families of the deceased.

I have also directed the issue of a solatium of Rs. 1 lakh each to the families of the deceased, from the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund.

Minister, officials take succour to survivors and the bereaved

On receipt of the news that most of the passengers of the private launch that capsized near Bay Island in Port Blair, Andaman Union Territory yesterday evening were from Tamil Nadu, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa despatched the Revenue Administration Commissioner and the Revenue Secretary of the State Government to Port Blair and directed them to provide the needed assistance to the affected.

As per her directions, the two officials reached Port Blair this morning and undertook relief measures to the affected in co-ordination with the Andaman Administration.

As a result, of the 32 passengers who went on that cruise, the bodies of 16 were retrieved and brought to Chennai by flight at Government cost.

On the direction of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Hon'ble Minister for Animal Husbandry and the District Collector of Kancheepuram received the bodies and took them to their respective places in separate mortuary vans and handed them over to their relatives.

The rescued 15 passengers came to Chennai by flight and State Government bore the expenses. After medical examination, they were sent to their homes in special buses.

Search operation for the missing passenger has been intensified. Tamil Nadu Government officials in co-ordination with Andaman Administration are on the task

Netaji Subash Chandra Bose - 118th birth anniversary

Hon'ble Ministers, Worshipful Mayor of Chennai and Secretary, Tamil Development and Information paid floral tributes on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government to a portrait of Netaji Subash Chandra Bose placed near his statue on Kamarajar Road, Chennai on 23-01-2014, in connection with his 118th birth anniversary.

Boost for infrastructure in colleges of Indian medicine

The Indian System of Medicine comprises Siddha, Ayurveda, Unani, Homoeopathy, and Yoga and Naturopathy. This system of medicine has a long tradition. Its treatment procedures have produced long-standing relief at low cost and without any side effects. Last year, during the outbreak of dengue and viral fever, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa, directed the distribution throughout the State of the traditional medicines, the juice of the leaves of Papaya and Malai Vembu and Nila Vembu decoction for speedy recovery of patients. Through this, the dengue and other diseases spread by viruses were largely controlled and patients recovered quickly. It received the approbation of the people.

To provide a high level of education with modern scientific technology for students of the Indian System of Medicine, it is necessary to improve all the infrastructure in the colleges of Indian Medicine. Taking this into account, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has ordered the provision of infrastructure and other needed facilities to the colleges of Indian Medicine also.

Accordingly, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has allotted Rs. 15 crore - Rs. 1 crore for the Government Siddha Medical College and Hospital at Palayamkottai, Rs. 3.52 crore for the Government Siddha Medical College at Chennai, Rs. 3 crore for the Government Homoeopathy Medical College at Tirumangalam, Madurai District, Rs. 4.16 crore for the Government Yoga and Naturopathy Medical College at Chennai, Rs. 2.32 crore for the Government Unani Medical College at Chennai and Rs. one crore for the Government Ayurveda Medical College at Kottar, Kanniyakumari District.

The Hon'ble Cheif Minister has also alloted Rs. 12 crore for setting up a Research and Development Division in every college of Indian Medicine to enable students and lecturers take up research work. Through this, the greatness and utility of the Indian System of Medicine will get highlighted in international research publications and the usefulness of Indian Medicine will reach the global community.

TAIWANESE SCHOLAR ACKNOWLEDGES THIRUKKURAL AS WORLD SCRIPTURE

At the Thiruvalluvar Day Celebrations, organised by the Tamil Nadu Government at the Government Museum Complex, Egmore, Chennai, on 15.1.2014 Thiruvalluvar Award was presented to Taiwanese Scholar Dr. Yu Hsi who translated Thirukkural in to Mandarin.

Accepting the Award Dr. Yu Hsi said many philosophical values from ancient India and China are common. They contain advice to King and common man alike.

Thirukkural contains everything. There is nothing missing in it.Thiruvalluvar prescribes the duties of a man in his various roles as son, father, husband, friend and citizen. He gives the qualities of kings, ministers, royal messengers, spies, etc.

Thiruvalluvar wrote 1330 couplets. Each Couplet conveys rich wisdom. But I consider,

Couplet No. 226

Relieving the killing hunger of the needy
Is the safest treasury of the wealthy

(அற்றார் அழிபசி தீர்த்தல் அஃதொருவன்
பெற்றான் பொருள்வைப் புழி)

and Couplet No. 221

Helping the poor alone is real charity
All else aim at recompense only

(வறியார்க்கொன்று ஈவதே ஈகைமற் றெல்லாம்
குறியெதிர்ப்பை நீர துடைத்து)

are the most vital couplets since they deal with charity.

True to this philosophy of Valluvar, I understand the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has introduced 3 important schemes to ease the hunger of the people.

1. Priceless rice for the poor
2. Annadhanam (Free Meal scheme) in temples
3. Amma Canteens

As per an old Proverb, "Of all the charities, feeding the hungry is the best charity in the world"

May the Almighty shower his choicest blessings on the Hon'ble Chief Minister AMMA.

Though I have been conferred with many awards, I consider Thiruvalluvar Award as a prestigious award in my life.

Confucious, a renowned scholar of China is considered as one of the best philosophers by the world Scholars.

After reading Thirukkural, I rate Thiruvalluvar an equally important philosopher who teaches ethics, statecraft, citizenship, etc.

Confucious, also give advice to the people for living a good life. His advice parallels Thiruvalluvar's advice in many ways.

I acknowledge Thirukural as Universal Scripture for there is no specific reference to any particular race, religion, country or rule.

I deeply thank the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamilnadu for giving me an opportunity to translate Thirukural in Mandarin and conferring Thiruvalluvar award on me. On this occasion, I promise that my literary Journey for promoting Thirukural will continue in my own country and other countries.

Thank You all.

Hon'ble Ministers and Secretary, Tamil Development and Information Department, Government of Tamil Nadu participated in the function.

Own buildings for 27 Adi Dravidar Hostels

As more students from the Adi Dravidar and Scheduled Tribes Communities come forward to enroll in schools following the promotional measures taken by the State Government and as the incidence of drop-outs has come down considerably, there is need for more hostels for these students.

Taking this into account, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has issued orders for opening new hostels for Adi Dravidar and Scheduled Tribes students and constructing own buildings for hostels that presently function from rented buildings.

Accordingly, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has ordered construction of own buildings this year for 27 hostels and allotted Rs. 27 crore at the rate of Rs. one crore each. Solar power system of 5 kilowatt capacity will be installed in these buildings.

Of the 54 hostels functioning from rented buildings the chosen 27 are one each from the 9 districts of Ariyalur, Coimbatore, Dharmapuri, Dindigul, Erode, Karur, Namakkal, Tiruppur and Thoothukudi, 5 in Pudukottai District, 2 in Salem District, 3 in Sivagangai District, 2 in Tiruchirapalli District, 2 in Tirunelveli District and 4 in Villupuram District.

Subsidy ceiling for generators raised to Rs. 5 lakh for MSMEs

For economic growth and consistent development, micro, small and medium industries play an important role. These institutions create more employment opportunities. For the growth of these industries, the Government headed by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has been extending several concessions.

To insulate these industries from power cuts and help them in uninterupted production, orders had already been issued permitting them to install gensets up to a capacity of 320 KVA and raising the subsidy ceiling to Rs.5 lakh from Rs. 1.50 lakh for setting up the generators.

A New Entrepreneur - cum - Enterprise Development Scheme was launched to turn educated youth into first generation entrepreneurs. Under the scheme, the educated youth are given entrepreneurial training; industrial projects are prepared for them; financial assistance are arranged with the financial institutions and commercial contacts established with big industries. Capital subsidy of 25 per cent subject to a maximum of Rs. 25 lakh and loan with a 3 per cent lesser interest rate are arranged through banks and the Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation.

To encourage the growth of these industries and thereby create an industrial revolution and to prepare them to the rapidly changing environment on account of economic growth as outlined in Vision 2023, the Hon'ble Chief Minister's Government has been taking several measures.

The Tamil Nadu Small Scale Industries Development Corporation has been taking steps for setting up industrial estates with adequate infrastructure for starting micro, small and medium industries. With Central and State Governments' financial assistance, this Corporation has been implementing the Micro and Small Industries Agency Development Scheme and its component, the Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme for creating infrastructure facilities in new industrial estates and creating /developing such facilities in the existing estates.

Under the Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has ordered the development of infrastructure in the Industrial Estate at Malumichampatti in Coimbatore District at a cost of Rs.2 crore.

Big boost to medical facilities in district hospitals through upgradation

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has ordered the upgradation of District Hospitals in 15 Districts to the level of Medical College Hospitals.

The Hospitals chosen for the upgradation are the ones at Cuddalore, Tiruvallur, Pudukkottai, Ramanathapuram, Virudhunagar, Karur, Perambalur, Namakkal, Krishnagiri, Erode, Tiruppur, Nilgiris, Dindigul, Nagapattinam and Kancheepuram.

For giving higher level of treatment in these Hospitals, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has ordered the creation of posts of 105 Super Specialist Doctors, 183 Specialist Doctors, 60 Doctors, 3 Dentists, 443 Nurses, 14 Laboratory Technicians and 18 Radiologists.

The Hon'ble Chief Ministers has also passed orders for the appointment of Radiologists in 98 Government Hospitals which do not have one and 13 Lab Technicians in as many Government Hospitals that do not have one at present.

At present, 105 Government Hospitals are functioning as Integrated Emergency Maternal- Child Health Centers. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has ordered the creation of an obstetrics intensive treatment section in 55 of these Hospitals which are frequented by pregnant women.

For this, 220 nurses are to be appointed at the rate of 4 for each.

By way of protecting the wellbeing of mother and child, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has ordered the upgradation of maternal-child health sections in the Salem and Madurai Medical Colleges and the Egmore Obstetrics Hospital as Maternal Child Health Management Treatment Centres. For the better working of this centres, orders have been issued for the appointment of 49 Specialist Doctors and 110 Nurses additionally.

As a result of improved infrastructure facilities and construction of additional buildings, the number of outpatients and in-patients in 56 Government Hospitals functioning under the Directorate of Medicine and Rural Health Works are increasing. Taking this into account and to provide better service, orders have been issued for appointment of 167 more Nurses.

Stipendary assistance is provided to 650 girl trainees studying diploma course in Nurses Training Schools attached to 9 Medical College Hospitals in the State in each year of the course. To encourage these students, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has issued orders to increase the stipend amount to Rs. 600/- from Rs.400/- for first year students, Rs. 700/- from Rs.440/- for second year students, Rs. 800/- from Rs.480/- for third year students. On account of this, the Government will incur an additional expenditure of Rs. 60,37,200/- every year. Totally 1,935 students will benefit

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has extended the Chief Ministers Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme to Sri Lanka Tamils who are not living in camps in Tamil Nadu but have registered themselves with the local police as refugees. The Scheme already covers Sri Lankan Tamils living in the camps. Through this, 34,826 Sri Lankan Tamils belonging to 13,289 families will benefit.

Cloud Computing Technology for State Data Centre

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has allotted Rs. 11.39 crore for installing the modern "Cloud Computing'' technology at the Tamil Nadu State Data Centre.

'Cloud Computing' is an Information technology that makes computing easily accessible through internet. Through this, services in respect of infrastructure, software and applications can be obtained easily from institutions offering computing solutions.

The Tamil Nadu State Data Centre is offering to all Government departments need-based unhindered computer framework that is safe, reliable, developed and can be shared. Cloud Computing is imperative for the Data Centre to upgrade computer structures in the Government sector. Through this Cloud Computing Technology, computer skills can be assembled together in the best possible way. The delay in setting up separate infrastructure for each Government department and under-utilization of computer will be averted through this. Moreover, Cloud Computing will be of great help in upgradation of computer capacity and in retrieval of data in case of virus attack. Numerous benefits like low expenditure, shared infrastructure, reduced management cost, extensive usage and instant accessibility accrue an account of employing the Cloud Computing Technology.

SUB REGISTRAR OFFICE BUILDINGS AT RS. 30 CRORE

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has given administrative sanction for the construction of integrated complexes for the Registration Department at Dindigul, Ooty, Koyambedu and Cheyyar and independent buildings for 35 Sub-Registrar offices in the current financial year.

A sum of Rs.30 crore has also been allotted-- Rs.10.75 crore for the integrated complexes and Rs.19.25 crore for the 35 Sub-Registrar offices at the rate of Rs.55 lakh each.

The integrated complex buildings will have solar power panels. The complexes at these 4 places will accommodate 11 Sub-Registrar offices.

Construction of these buildings follows a decision of the State Government to house Sub-Registrar offices functioning from rented buildings to their own buildings within 5 years with facilities for rooms for officers, computer room, safe room for document extracts, waiting room for the general public, ramps for senior citizens and differently-abled, wide footpath, protected water and modern toilets.

Funds were allotted for construction of own buildings for 52 Sub-Registrar offices at a cost of Rs.26 crore in 2011-2012, and integrated complexes at 17 places housing 29 Sub-Registrar offices and independent buildings for 48 Sub-Registrar offices at a cost of Rs. 48.90 crore in 2012-2013. The projects are under implementation.

Works for Erode road overbridge

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** has approved the location of a road overbridge on the Erode-Perundurai- Kangeyam road near Government Hospital and has given administrative sanction for Rs.22,92,62,000/- towards taking up preliminary works like land acquisition, preparation of a detailed project report etc.

With a growing number of industries, commercial complexes, power looms and handlooms, traffic congestions in Erode city are also moving on the high side. To streamline road transport, the Government headed by the Hon'ble Chief Minister is taking several steps to improve the road infrastructure. The road overbridge near the Government Hospital is one such step.

Slum Board tenements to be repaired at Rs. 25.77 crore

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has allotted Rs. 25.77 crore for taking up repair and other improvement works in 29,028 Slum Clearance Board tenements in 177 scheme areas in the current (2013-2014) and the next financial years.

The works include rectification of staircases, renovating drinking water, drainage pipelines and toilet basins, floor and wall coatings, painting and fixing tiles to prevent rain water seepage. In the current year, 2013-2014, Rs. 10 crore will be spent and in the next year Rs. 15.77 crore.

For developing and converting the present bus stand in Kannagi Nagar into a bus terminus with facilities to station 20 buses and have a workshop, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has allotted Rs. 2 crore.

Population in Okkiyam, Thuraipakkam and Kannagi Nagar scheme areas increased following construction of 15,656 multi storeyed tenements as part of a re-location programme of families living in Slum Clearance Board tenements constructed in objectionable areas in Chennai. In the same area, 8,048 more multi-storeyed tenements are under construction.

The development of the Kannagi Nagar bus stand has been taken up to operate greater number of buses to cater to the needs of the increased population of these areas. The new terminus will have enough space for passengers, administrative building, time-keeper office and basic facilities for passengers and officials.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has also sanctioned Rs. 117.15 crore for construction of 1,472 multi-storeyed tenements in Athipattu area, Ambattur, Chennai for re-locating slum dwellers in Kakkanji Nagar Corporation Ward No. 96, Chennai. The tenements will be constructed by the Slum Clearance Board. In the first phase, 1,056 tenements will be built at a cost of Rs. 84.92 crore and in the second phase 416 tenements will be built at a cost of Rs. 32.23 crore.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has also sanctioned grant of Rs. 42.68 crore for these schemes – Rs. 31.05 crore for the first phase and Rs. 11.63 crore for the second phase. The tenements will have a plinth area of 271 sq. ft. each and will comprise 2 rooms, a kitchen, a balcony and a toilet.

Chief Minister brings Annamalai varsity in step with social goals

The Tamil Nadu Government took over the administration of the privately managed Annamalai University at Chidambaram, Cuddalore District for properly administering the University, streamlining its financial administration and activating it to realise the goals for which it was started.

As a result of this, admission of students to this university this year was on the lines of the other Universities under the control of the Government, in a totally transparent manner and as per educational qualifications and reservation rules.

Economically backward students numbering 1,150, particularly from the families of landless agricultural labourers, have joined Annamalai University this year in different courses as first generation graduates.

The University had not been extending fee concessions to first generation graduate students from the economically backward families as is done in other Government Universities. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has ordered that such fee concession be extended to similarly placed students in Annamalai University also and has allotted Rs. 1.66 crore towards this. This will benefit 1,150 students.

In connection with Tiruvalluvar Day on 15.1.2014, Hon'ble Ministers, Worshipful Mayor of Chennai and Secretary to the Department of Tamil Development and Information paid floral tributes, on behalf of Tamil Nadu Government on a portrait of Tiruvalluvar placed near his statue in Chennai.

GIS for better delivery of Government services

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has ordered the setting up of a Tamil Nadu Geographical Information System (TNGIS) for better delivery of government services.

Geographical information is imperative for connecting spatial and non-spatial datasets uniformly to enable Government Departments to take departmental decisions. At present, different Government Departments in Tamil Nadu use geograpical information in different softwares. So far, there has not been a common infrastructure/standard in the application of this information.

To remove this deficiency, through TNGIS, a Spatial Data Infra-structure will be created for Spatial Datasets. This will help utilisation of geographical information with the different Government Departments in a safe and beneficial way to people. This also helps exchange of geographical information, essential for efficient administration at all levels, in a transparent way. This infrastructure will avert the expenditure involved in different Government Departments creating such a facility exclusively for themselves.

Through the Tamil Nadu Geographical Information System, Government Departments can download maps they need. This set up will be an instrument for Government Departments to plan, decide and supervise their services to people in a better way. This Information System will be implemented in two stages ---at the Secretariat in the first stage and at District level in the second stage.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has ordered the setting up of the TNGI System at a capital cost of Rs. 1,32,80,000/- through the Tamil Nadu e-governance Agency.

Higher grant for temples, colleges, schools in Kanniyakumari

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has issued orders increasing the annual grant given to 490 temples, a women's college, a higher secondary school, two high schools and a primary school in Kanniyakumari District to Rs. 3 crore from Rs. one crore.

Following the merger of Kanniyakumari District with Tamil Nadu in 1956, Kanniyakumari Dewaswom Board was established to administer these temples and other institutions. The administration of these temples as also conduct of daily poojas, festivals, maintenance, renovation and payment of salary to staff is carried out with the income from some of the temples and the Rs. one crore grant provided by the State Government. With the ever increasing expenses, financial constraints have overtaken these temples.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has also ordered the enhancement of the monthly pension to the Poojaris of village temples that have not been brought under the Hindu Religious and Endowment Department to Rs. 1,000/- from Rs. 750/-. Poojaris who have put in 20 years of service, completed 60 years of age and are retired are eligible for pension.

Boost to pilgrim centre, medieval palace, historic temple

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has issued orders for works costing Rs.1.27 crore for the convenience of tourists and pilgrims visiting Tirukovilur in Villupuram District.

The works pertain to providing covered drainage facility at Tirukovilur Panchayat Union road and Sannadhi Street, a sanitary complex at the Arulmigu Veeratteswarar Temple area, setting up reflective sign boards, a compound wall and drinking water facility near the entrance of Ulagalandha Perumal Temple, an overhead tank and a deep borewell in the Veeratteswarar Temple area and a covered drainage facility in North Street.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has ordered the renovation of the Eraniel Palace located on 2.34 acres in Kalkulam Taluk, Kanniyakumari District and owned by the temples of that District, at a cost of Rs.3.85 crore.

Like the Padmanabapuram Palace, this old palace was also maintained by the Royal family. All the tanks in the palace complex are in disuse. A major part of the ceiling is damaged and has lost its lustre. The 'Vasantha Mandapam' on the South-Western side of the palace has crumbled. The wooden sculptures in the mandapam have broken down. The renovation is to be undertaken with the help of archaeological experts.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has also allotted Rs. 1 crore for the renovation of the hill-top Srimukyachaleswarar Temple in Peramukkal Village, Tindivanam Taluk, Villupuram District, without loss of its heritage value. The Archaeological Department has declared the temple as a protected monument. A king of the Chola Dynasty had turned this brick temple into a stone temple.

Phase II of afforestation programme

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has approved a proposal to consolidate the works taken up under the afforestation programme phase II executed with loan assistance of Rs.567.42 crore from the Japan International Co-operation Agency.

The afforestation programme was launched during the earlier regime of the Hon'ble Chief Minister and was completed in 2012-2013 .It envisaged improving the living standards of socially backward people living in villages adjacent to forests and dependent on them for their livelihood, and restoring the degraded forests to their natural status with the participation of these people.

The consolidation programme will be implemented at a cost of Rs.52.11 crore in 2013-2014 and 2014-2015.The balance amount of the loan assistance given by the Japanese Agency and State contribution will make up for this fund. Under the programme, strengthening of the joint forest administrative set-up, institutional skill development, improving community assets, consultancy services for work consolidation, supervision, employing technology, development of forest extension centers and similar works will be executed.

International Kabaddi competition in Chennai

The International Kabaddi Competitions are to be held at Chennai in the 4th week of February 2014. The competitions are both for men and women and 21 countries--- India, Mexico, America, England, Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Nepal, Iran, Pakistan, Turkmenistan, Bangladesh, Thailand, Malaysia, China, Taipei, Australia, Canada, Italy and West Indies --- are participating.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has sanctioned a grant of Rs. one crore for the conduct of this event. Kabaddi is the most popular sport in Tamil Nadu, especially among villages.

The 8th International University Squash Medallion Competitions are to be held at Chennai in December 2014, the first ever to be held in Asia. Squash players from19 countries – India, Australia, Canada, Great Britain, Hong Kong, China, South Africa, Netherlands, United States , Switzerland, Czech Republic, Germany, Ireland, Egypt, Singapore, Austria, Nigeria, Spain and New Zealand -- will participate in the event to be held at the squash stadium, Chennai, which has been developed to international standards. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has sanctioned a grant of Rs.75 lakh for the event.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has allotted Rs.4.05 crore for setting up modern gymnasiums in an area of 1,500 to 2,000 sq.ft in sports stadia in 17 places across the State. At Chennai, the gymnasium will come up in the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium and in other places – Madurai, Tiruvannamalai, Kanniyakumari, Virudhunagar, Cuddalore, Thanjavur, Theni, Dindigul, Thoothukudi, Pudukkottai, Salem, Sivagangai, Tiruchi, Ramanathapuram, Tirunelveli and the Nilgris at the District stadia. The expenditure will be for setting up the gyms (Rs.1.50 crore) and for the gym equipment (Rs.2.55 crore).

Big boost to Paramakudi College infrastructure

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has allotted Rs.4,67,61,750/- for providing infrastructure facilities for teaching the newly added 8 courses of study in the Government Arts College at Paramakudi in Ramanathapuram District.

The funds will be spent on providing additional class rooms, laboratories, rooms for Heads of Departments, library, toilet facilities for students, workers room and other facilities.

Started in 1995, the college has been ranked 10th at the State level and most of the students of the college are university rank holders.

The Government headed by the Hon'ble Chief Minister is starting higher educational institution every year with a view to encourage students, particularly from rural areas to take to higher education. Also, to improve the infrastructure facilities in Government colleges the Government has allotted an unprecedented Rs.100 crore.

As per the orders of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** a meeting of fishermen of Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka was held at the office of the Director of Fisheries at the DMS complex in Teynampet, Chennai on 27.01.2014.

Pochampalli taluk irrigation scheme brought to fruition

The Rs.6.50 crore scheme to lay a new channel from Balekuli Lake to supply water to 28 lakes in Pochampalli Taluk, Krishnagiri District, is about to be completed. Work on supplying water to 25 lakes through the new channel has been completed.

To bring the project to fruition, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has given permission to release the surplus water flowing into Krishnagiri Dam, through the Balekuli Lake. This will provide irrigation to 334.60 hectares in the villages of Balekuli, Nagojana Halli, Veeramalai, Vilangaamudi, Veppalampatti and Kattagaram in Pochampalli Taluk.

Likewise, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has given administrative sanction for Rs. 1.75 crore for digging a supply channel from Viruppampatti Lake in Pochampalli Taluk to 5 lakes and a tank downstream.

As the work on laying this supply channel has been completed, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has given permission for the release of water from Viruppampatti Lake through the new supply channel to the downstream lakes of Baalethottam Lake, Moongan Lake, Ottukallanur Lake, Kuttur Lake and Thippampatti Lake as also a tank. Through this, 83.76 hectares in the villages of Paarandapalli, Ayalampatti, Karadanur, Ottu Kallanur, Thippampatti and Baalethottam in Pochampalli Taluk will be irrigated.

To ease traffic congestion in Paramakudi Town in Ramanathapuram District, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has ordered the laying of a bypass road of National Highways quality on the right bank of the Vaigai river for a length of about 3.60 km. A sum of Rs.6.50 crore has also been allotted.

Acceding to the request of the people of Sorancheri village in Poonamallee taluk, Tiruvallur District, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has ordered the construction of a bridge across Cooum River and has given administrative sanction for Rs.1.20 crore for the purpose. During the rainy season and floods it is an ordeal for Sorancheri villagers to go to nearby places, for children to go to schools and for the farmers to move their goods outstation.

Fillip to facilities at small, micro industries' clusters

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has been taking interest in the growth of small and micro industries that play an important role in the economic growth of the country and act as the nursery for the development of industrial entreprenurs. The cluster development scheme aims at improving the productivity of small and micro industries and their competitive ability and skills.

Under this scheme, besides the provision of drinking water, street lights, road and storm water drainage, common facility centres needed by the small and micro industries, effluent treatment and testing and laboratory facilities will also be set up.

Last year, the Hon'ble Chief Minister had issued orders for the creation of common facility centres for the engineering industries cluster at Hosur in Krishnagiri District at a cost of Rs. 6,90,90,000/- at Ranipet in Vellore District (Rs. 9,27,08,000) and for the rice mill cluster at Keezhapaavur in Tirunelveli District (Rs. 6,90,58,000/-).

This year, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has sanctioned Rs. 78.91 lakh as State Government share for setting up a common facility centre for the rice mill cluster at Alangulam in Tirunelveli District at a cost of Rs. 7.87 crore and has issued orders for the release of Rs. 55.23 lakh as first instalment towards this.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has already allotted Rs. 85 lakh for the Ceramic Technology Training Centre at Vridhachalam in Cuddalore District for developing its infrastructure as per the guidelines of the All India Committee on Technology and the needs of the students studying in this centre.

Two industrial sheds at the Government Ceramic Industrial Estate at Vridhachalam have already been allotted by the State Government under the Cluster Development Scheme for setting up a common facility centre for the ceramic cluster at Vriddhachalam. For this cluster to improve its work, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has further sanctioned Rs. 9.57 lakh.

Rs. 10 crore for freedom from open defecation

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has ordered the construction of 77 integrated modem sanitary complexes this year in 73 Town Panchayats at a cost of Rs.10 crore to realize the goal of total eradication of open defecation in areas of urban local bodies by 2015.

The open defecation eradication programme was formulated in 2011-2012 and in the first phase Rs.19.83 crore was allotted. The funds were utilized for construction of 52 integrated sanitary complexes in as many Town Panchayats and 75 sanitary complexes in 62 Town Panchayats.

Likewise, 658 toilets in Municipal Corporation and Municipal areas were re-done and 253 new toilets were constructed. Last year, Rs.72.60 crore was allotted for improving existing public conveniences and for putting up new ones in Corporation, Municipal and Town Panchayat areas.

Moreover, on the orders of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, 12,796 women sanitary complexes that were in a state of disuse between 2006 and 2011, were renovated at a cost of Rs.170 crore and basic hygiene was ensured for women.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has already passed orders for the setting up of sanitary complexes for men also. Accordingly, integrated sanitary complexes would be set up in 770 Village Panchayats at a cost of Rs.35 crore at the rate of two for each Panchayat Union.

For creating clean villages , the State Government has increased the quantum of its share amount for construction of toilets in private houses to Rs.2500/- from Rs.1,000/-. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has already passed orders for the construction of 4,56,901 such toilets on this basis in the financial year 2012-2013.

Step for bigger loans to minorities to start industries

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has directed that the State's share capital in the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation be increased by one crore to take it to Rs. 8.50 crore for helping minorities in Tamil Nadu to get higher quantum of loan for starting industries.

The Tamil Nadu Minorities Economic Development Corporation is functioning as an agency of the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation and is issuing loans to minorities including Muslims and Christians to become self-employed.

Increasing the share capital in the National Commission will correspondingly fetch higher loan facilities routed through the State Commission. Hence, the Hon'ble Chief Minister increased State's share capital in the National Commission by Rs. 3.50 crore in 2012 to take it to Rs. 7.50 crore. Now, Rs. 1 crore is added to the share capital.

The Government headed by the Hon'ble Chief Minister has been taking several steps to improve the educational and economic developments of the minorities and protect their welfare. These include extending the Ulema Pension scheme to more persons, increasing the monthly pension to Rs. 1,000/-, hiking the grant to Wakf Board to Rs. 1 crore to overcome its financial deficit, providing a lump sum of Rs. 3 crore to help it clear retirement benefit arrears, increasing Government grant to Rs. 30 lakh to the Haj Committee, doubling Government's matching grant on the donations raised by Muslim Women Help Groups and providing Rs. 1 crore assistance every year for 500 Christians to undertake pilgrimage to Jerusalem. ■

Chennai fishing harbour to be upgraded with Rs. 75 crore

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalitha has given administrative sanction for Rs.75 crore for upgrading Chennai Fishing Harbour, otherwise called Kasimedu / Royapuram Fishing Harbour, for handling more fishing boats and higher quantum of fish catch.

At present, up to 575 fishing boats can be moored in this harbour functioning from 1984. The number of boats using it has increased to 1,395. The fish catch also has increased.

As per this plan, works to locate a new 300-metre-long wharf, a new 200-metre- long boat bay to station fibre glass boats, extension of the existing boat bay by 140 metres at the northern end, 2 new 150-metre long subsidiary boat bays, 2 new 200 metre long subsidiary boat bays,2 new net-mending halls, sanitary complex, providing electricity, road facilities, deepening the harbour etc are to be undertaken. Through this, 12,000 fishermen will benefit directly and 15,000 more fishermen and workers indirectly.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has also directed the renovation of the Chetpet Lake in Chennai, belonging to the Fisheries Department and has allotted Rs. 42 crore for the purpose. The lake, spread over 15 acres is to be renovated into a green park with entertainment features that will include fishing with rod, water sports, boating, open air auditoriums and a children's play-corner. Beautiful and rare trees will be grown along the bounds of the lake. A multi-tier parking facility and a fish-eatery will also be set up. By implementing these works, Chetpet lake will turn into a good tourist spot.

Rs. 853.96 crore water, drainage schemes across State

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has sanctioned Rs. 853.96 crore for drinking water improvement schemes and underground sewerage schemes across the State.

Of this, Rs. 441.46 crore will be spent on drinking water schemes and Rs. 412.50 crore for sewerage schemes.

The drinking water schemes will be taken up under the Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT).

The Municipalities to benefit are Aarni (Rs. 36.26 crore), Periakulam (Rs. 15.54 crore), Thiruvathipuram (Rs. 13.44 crore) and Tindivanam (Rs. 52.45 crore);

For the Tirunelveli Corporation areas, the improvement schemes will be implemented at a cost of Rs. 230 crore under the German Development Bank's loan scheme; the annual maintenance cost of these works will be Rs. 11.10 crore;

The other scheme is that of conveying water from Thervaikandigai lake in Gummudipoondi Taluk, Tiruvallur District to Poondi lake through Kandaleru Poondi canal, (Rs. 93.77 crore) to be implemented under the Tamil Nadu Investment Promotion Programme.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister had already ordered the construction of a reservoir at a cost of Rs. 330 crore by linking the lakes in the villages of Kannankottai and Thervaikandigai in Gummudipoondi Taluk. By filling up the reservoir twice, one million cubic feet of water (1 TMC) can be stored. Water conveyance facility exists between Poondi lake and Red Hills and Chembarampakkam lake and from these two lakes to Kilpauk and Chemberampakkam water treatment plants. As water has to be conveyed from Thervaikandigai lake to Poondi lake, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has sanctioned the Rs. 93.77 crore scheme.

The underground sewerage schemes will be executed under UIDSSMT in the Municipalities of Periakulam (Rs. 26.60 crore), Sathur (Rs. 37.66 crore), Mettur (Rs. 73.09 crore), Arakonam (Rs. 95.52 crore), Tirupathur (Rs. 104.01 crore) and Chidambaram (Rs. 75.62 crore).

Tamil Arasu

R.NI. No. 21445/70

The float of the Information and Public Relations Department of the Tamil Nadu Government which reflected the culture of Tamil Nadu, won the second prize in the Republic Day Celebrations held in New Delhi on 26.01.2014

Published by J.Kumaragurubaran, IAS., on behalf of Information & Public Relations Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, Secretariat, Fort St. George, Chennai - 600 009 and Printed by: P.V. Suriyanarayanan at Tamil Arasu Press, 110, Anna Salai, Chennai - 600 002. Editor J.Kumaragurubaran, IAS.,